Business community backbone of country's economy

Senate Chairman Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani on Monday said the business community was the backbone of the country's economic development. Talking to a prominent businessman Ageel Karim Dhedhi, the Chairman said coordination has to be increased to promote commercial activities within and outside the country. (Report on Page 8)

**Maulana Fazlur Rehman's health** deteriorates, suspends political activities

QUETTA: Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) Chairman Maulana Fazlur Rehman has suspended his political activities after his health deteriorates, ARY News reported on Mo According to details, the Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam (F) chie

Simultaneously published from Islamabad, Lahore and Multan

Jamadi-us-Sani 10, Tuesday, January 3, 2023

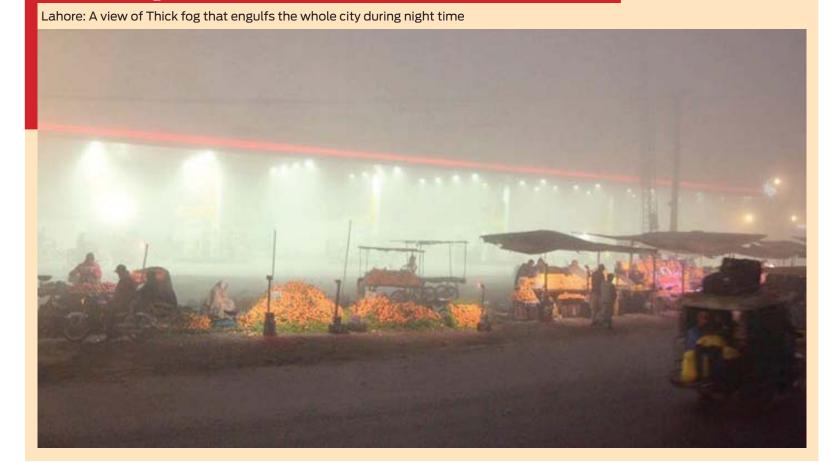
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Thick Fog



## **NSC** resolves to have zero tolerance for terrorism; maintains state's full writ

跨 Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: (Dunya News) - National Security Committee (NSC) presided over by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Monday concurred to take action against social media accounts running negative campaign to spread speculations over country's economy.

Sources privy to the development said that the huddle reviewed the elements that caused the country's disrepute on social media.

During the meeting of the National Security Committee, it has also been proposed to take action against those who spread negative campaigns against Pakistan on social media.

The meeting also decided to keep an eve on the social media accounts that promote the agenda of the enemies of the country, besides, instructions were issued to take action against the social media accounts that target the economy.

ECP gives deadline to Parliamentarians

*for submitting* 

assets details



Earlier, in the first round, the civil-military leadership expressed resolve on Friday to consolidate the hard-earned gains in the country and deal with terrorism with an iron hand. Federal ministers Ishaq

to-Zardari and others attended the moot. Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee military leaders came as Paki-Gen Sahir Shamshad Mirza, Chief of Army Staff Gen Asim Munir other services chiefs

Dar, Khwaja Asif, Bilawal Bhut- and spymaster Lt Gen Nadeem

Anjum were also present. The moot of the civil and stan recently witnessed surge in terrorism cases after the TTP withdrew from the ceasefire

Sources said the forum

pledged to establish peace in every nook and corner of the country. It also resolved to ensure effective implementation of the National Action Plan.

### Marriyum wants to know Imran's motives behind Bajwa's extension

**Example 2** City Reporter

2018 to April 2022.

narratives which were nothing but

packs of lies to mislead the people.

"Imran Khan has been changing

his narratives like weather (since his

ouster from power)," she said.

ISLAMABAD: The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) has given a deadline to the parliamentarians for submitting the details of their assets by January 15. The ECP released a list of parliamentarians from the

Lower and Upper Houses, as well as from the provincial assemblies who failed to submit asset details. The commission stated already failed to materialize his plan to default the country, and he

in a notification that some lawmakers did not submit their statements of the assets despite the expiry of the December 31 deadline. It asked the lawmakers to submit the details of their assets to the ECP by January 15, otherwise, their member ship will be suspended on January 16.



extension to the former army chief The minister said Imran Khan General (retd) Qamar Javed Bajwa claimed that it came to his knowlwhen he was planning against him edge last summer that Shehbaz Sharif [Imran Khan]. would become prime minister which Reacting to the PTI chairman's was contrary to his earlier statements. interview to a private TV chan-He (Imran) used to say that he even nel, she said that Imran Khan had could think Shehbaz Sharif becoming

the country's chief executive. Ironically, "foreign agent Imran should better introspect on his four- Khan", who had robbed Toshakhana year government's performance from and traded off national interests for diamonds, had the audacity to ques-The minister alleged that the tion what wrong he had committed, former PM consistently changed his she remarked.

Marriyum said Imran Khan acted like a dictator and took autocratic steps against his opponents on false allegations, however, not a single allegation was proved.

Now the time had come that Imran Khan would have to answer for his wrongdoings, she added.

The minister said astonishingly Imran Khan had all of a sudden started commenting on the actions taken by former army chief General (retd) Qamar Javed Bajwa from 2021 to April 2022.

Marriyum said it was beyond comprehension why did Imran Khan not keep the people informed when the former army chief was resisting the accountability process. At the same time, he had surprisingly kept Tayba Gul hostage at the Prime Minister's House for blackmailing the former National Accountability Bureau chairman.

The evidence of horse-trading had come forth which proved that Imran Khan had set up a "political market" during the Senate's election in 2018, she added. His (Imran's) leaked audios were clear evidence of his involvement in political engineering and horse-trading.

PML-N withdraws no-trust motion against speaker, deputy speaker

👺 Bureau Report

LAHORE: Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) withdrew on Monday its no-confidence motion against the speaker and deputy speaker of the Punjab Assembly.

Sources privy to the matter said that the PML-N withdrew the no-confidence motion for failing to change the order of numbers in the Punjab Assembly, while the PTI and PML-Q alliance had a clear edge.

Despite the efforts of former president Asif Ali Zardari and the PML-N, the number games were not completed, and the no-trust motion against the speaker and deputy speaker was withdrawn.

## President expresses condolences with families of Shuhada

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi on Monday phoned the bereaved families of shaheed personnel of Pakistan army who embraced shahadat in different incidents.

The president, during his conversation, said that sacrifices of shuhada to eliminate terrorism from the motherland would be remembered forever.

He paid tribute to shuhada, expressed sympathies with the bereaved families and prayed for them to bear the losses with fortitude.

The president contacted father of Shaheed Sepoy Muhammad Wasim who embraced martvrdom in Janikhel area of Bannu on December 31, President Secretariat Press Wing said in a press

His father expressed the resolve that he had three sons who were ready to sacrifice themselves for the motherland.



ر مایاعلی! تم نے <sup>ت</sup>س چیز کااحرام باندھا

ہے؟انہوںنے عرض کی نبی کریم صلی ندعليه وسلم نے جس کااحرام باندھاہو

راورا پنیاسی حالت پر احر ام جاری ر کھ۔ (صیحیح بخاری: حدیث نمبر1557) **Barkat Rice Mills** (Pvt) Limited

The president lauded the sacrifice of Shaheed sepoy and the patriotism of his father.

The president also contacted Muhammad Ashraf, brother of Shaheed Sobedar Shujja Hussain, who laid down his life in Kurram district on December 29.

Muhammad Ashraf apprised the president that his mother was proud of his son's sacrifice.

Separately, the president also phoned Gohar Yaseen, brother of Shaheed Abdur Rehman who told him that they were ready to sacrifice their lives for Pakistan.

The president also expressed his condolence with the uncle of Shaheed Naik Muhammad

#### 'Bajwa behind leaks', Imran hurls allegations at former army chief



LAHORE: Pakistan Tehreeke-Insaf (PTI) chairman and deposed Prime Minister Imran Khan on Monday continued castigating former COAS General (R) Qamar Javed Bajwa for toppling his government in league with "foreign hands" and leveled fresh allegations saying that Bajwa blackmailed him and party top brass through videos.

Speaking to a private TV channel, the PTI chief said relations between him and the former army chief soured because the latter "did not want accountability in the country."

Imran Khan further claimed that former envoy Hussain Haqqani was "hired" in the United States (US) to lobby against him. "Haqqani kept campaigning in the United States (US) to prove me anti-American," he

"Establishment can play an chief's signal.

important role in getting out of all crises, including the economy," he maintained.

Imran Khan reiterated that transparent elections were the ly way to bring stability to the country. "Let there be transparent elections in the country and make a sustainable government," he maintained.

Earlier in the day, the former premier summoned a party meeting on January 8 to finalise the strategy for vote of confidence in Punjab.

Sources claimed that the PTI has failed to reach a consensus on the matter and the trust vote faces further delay as PML-Q's Moonis is on a foreign visit. They say the PTI and PML-Qalliance has no other option but to seek vote of confidence as per directions of Punjab Governor Baligur Rehman.

On the other hand, Punjab Assembly Speaker Sibtain Khan said on Monday they were firm on their decision to dissolve assemblies.

The PTI leader clarified that Imran Khan had not backtracked on his decision and reiterated that the assemblies would be dissolved on the PTI

#### Govt disburses Rs 224.5 billion under PSDP 2022-23 in 5 months

**Spokesman Report** 

ISLAMABAD: The Federal Government has authorized the utilization of development funds amounting to Rs 224.5 billion out of a total allocation of Rs727 billion for various ongoing and new social sector uplift projects of the federal ministries and division in the first five months (July-November) of the fiscal year 2022-23 under its Public Sector Development Programme (PSDP).

Out of the total authorized/ disbursed amount, the total amount spent so far on the development projects during the corresponding period stood at Rs130.6 billion.

According to the disbursement mechanism of the Planning Division, the development funds allocated in the federal budget are released at the rate of 20% in the first quarter (July-September), followed by 30% each in the second and third quarters, and the remaining 20% in the last quarter (April-June) of a fiscal The government also

authorized/disbursed Rs100 billion for the Earthquake Reconstruction and Rehabilitation Authority (ERRA) out of which Rs 96.33 billion have been spent, according to the latest data released by the Ministry of Planning, Development, and Reform.

The detail shows that Rs 64.8 billion out of a total allocated amount of Rs 160.2 billion have been disbursed to corporations while Rs 159.6 billion have been disbursed to the federal ministries out of a total allocation of Rs 563.3

# The Spokesman

#### Condolence

Islamabad: President Dr. Arif Alvi and Begum Samina Arif Alvi paid a condolence visit at the residence of Senator Dr. Mohammad Humayun Mohmand, on the sad demise of his father.



# President urges expatriates to highlight Kashmir issue

#### **Spokesman Report**

ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi on Monday urged the Overseas Pakistanis to maintain close and strong connections with the people of the areas of their origin, and with their intellect, expertise, experiences, and investments uplift their social, economic and financial outlook.

He said that expatriates should take steps to improve Pakistan's image and highlight the human rights violations in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir and the persecution of minorities in India in their host coun-

The president expressed these views while talking to a delegation of eminent UK and US-based Pakistani expatriates, at Aiwan-e-Sadr, President Secretariat Press Wing said in a press release.

The President termed the Pakistani few months. diaspora around the world a great asset who were contributing with their hard progress and prosperity of their host countries.

gation to invest their knowledge, intel- and differently-abled people, providlect and expertise to create enabling ing patronage to orphans, and shift-



precious educated and high-quality human resources which were direly needed for Pakistan's socio-economic development.

He also expressed his concern over media reports of the brain drain of over 700,000 educated and skilled human resources abroad in the last

The president said that although care for the suffering humanity. akistan was facing difficult economic work, knowledge and intellect to the and financial situations but they were surmountable.

He asked the members of the dele- right track in empowering women

conditions in Pakistan to retain its ing its focus from curative treatment of diseases, which was expensive and unaffordable, to preventive mode of treatment which would help ensure health at a minimal cost.

> He said that Pakistan had an excellent record of hosting 4 million Afghan refugees for nearly 40 years, mostly out of its own resources, which was an example of hospitality, morality and

He said that the recent wa Ukraine had brought to light the inci- India on the basis of their religion. dents of discrimination in the treat-He said that Pakistan was on the ment of refugees. The refugees from Muslims, were even afraid to call their Ukraine were being welcomed by the EU countries whereas the refugees from other parts of the world were

expelled and allowed to be drowned in the sea, he opined.

The delegation included amongst others Lord Qurban Hussain, Lord Wajid Khan, Imran Hussain, Yasmin Dar, Kamran Hussain, Arshad Rachyal, Raja Najabat Hussain, Majid Nazir, Aaman Majid, Hammas Majid, Tahira Mohammad, Nawab-ud-Din, Syed Ali Kamran Kirmani, Shakoor Ahmed, Naqash Mushtaq Diwan, Sherbaz Munir Choudhary, Mehfooz Ullah, Sharafat Ullah, Sajid Khan, Nadeem Ahmed Khan, Brig (r) Iftikhar Ali Khan, Afzal Butt, and the leadership of the Khubaib Foundation.

He said that the UN could not stop wars and conflicts in Iraq, Syria, Libya and Afghanistan and other parts of the world which were waged primarily by spreading misinformation, fake news, and disinformation to achieve certain objectives of the developed world.

He said that minorities were being discriminated against, harassed, victimized, and intimidated across

He said that minorities, especially relatives elsewhere because of the fear of victimization by the Indian Secu-

## NDMA issues instructions for awareness, traveller's surveillance

#### News Desk

ISLAMABAD: The National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) on Monday issued instructions to the authorities concerned to ensure mass public awareness about the novel coronavirus variant that threatens the resurgence of the disease and ensure surveillance of travellers to avoid any risk of infection.

Chairman NDMA, Lieutenant General Inam Haider Malik presided over the review session held with the team of the National Institute of Health (NIH) and Civil surveillance mechanisms at Omicron variant of the dead- statistics on COVID-19 the COVID-19 situation and threat posed by the new BF.7



Aviation Authority (CAA) on airports in the wake of the ly virus, a news release said.

Management and Vaccina-The NIH showed detailed tion Administration Data in Pakistan.

It was briefed that Rapid Antigen Tests (RATs) & Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) tests of inbound passengers have been conducted at all airports of the country as per policy in vogue.

NIH officials told the forum that vaccination and screening tests of pedestrians are being executed at the Torkham border on daily

The CAA informed that an efficient system with a proper management team was fully functional at airports to remain vigilant and related logistic arrangements had been made to deal with any sub-variant of Covid-19.

#### deteriorates **Bureau Report**

Maulana

Fazl's health

QUETTA: Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) Chairman Maulana Fazlur Rehman has suspended his political activities after his health deteriorates, ARY News reported on Monday.

According to details, the Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam (F) chief suspended the political activities on doctors' advice, as his health deteriorated.

In a letter issued to party officials, JUI-F leader Abdul Ghafoor Haidari said that Maulana Fazlur Rehman's engagements have been cancelled until further notice.

## PTI swings into action to address MWM reservations

#### 👺 Bureau Report

LAHORE: Pakistan Tehreeke-Insaf (PTI) central leadership contacted its ally political party, Majlis Wahdat-ul-Muslimeen (MWM) to address its reservations, ARY News reported on Monday.

Following the instructions of party chief Imran Khan, PTI leaders Shireen Mazari and Asad Umar contacted

MWM chief Raja Nasir Abbas. The PTI leaders assured Abbas of addressing the reservations on a priority basis. Sources told ARY News that

Pervaiz Elahi's policies but not having any differences with the PTI.

Sources said that a joint strategy will be adopted by consulting senior leadership PTI and MWM on different affairs and Quran board. Moreover, the PTI leadership will also contact the chief minister for last solution to all issues.

Majlis Wahdat-e-Muslimeen that PTI leadership has been (MWM), a coalition partner of informed about the developthe Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) in Punjab, announced

over Punjab Chief Minister of confidence to CM Chaudhry

In a statement, the party spokesperson said that the decision was taken after of MWM. He stated that the party had reservations about some steps taken by the chief minister.

MPA Syeda Zehra Nagvi would not give the vote of Earlier in the day, the trust to Elahi, he said, adding

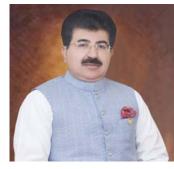
Punjab Chief Minister added.

MWM showed reservations that it would not give a vote Chaudhry Pervaiz Elahi is likely to take the vote of confidence from the provincial assembly next week, it emerged.

According to sources, Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaaf (PTI) and Pakistan Muslim League Quaid (PML-Q) have decided to summon a joint parliamentary meeting of both parties on January 2.

The parliamentary party meeting will decide the strategy for the Chief Minister (CM) of Punjab Chaudhry Pervaiz Elahi's vote of confidence in Punjab Assembly, sources

## **Business community** backbone of country's economy: Sanjrani



News Desk

ISLAMABAD: Senate Chairman nity. Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani on nity was the backbone of the coun- problems of business commuity.

try's economic development.

Talking to a prominent businessman Aqeel Karim Dhedhi, the Chairman said coordination has to be increased to promote commercial activities within and outside the country.

Chairman urged the business community to come up with their recommendations for augmentation of trade activities in the country.

The Senate Standing Committee on Commerce was an effective forum for highlighting the issues of traders and the business commu-

Aqeel Karim Dhedhi informed Monday said the business commuthe Chairman Senate about the

## PTI MNA Nasir Musazai to join JUI-F

#### Agencies

PESHAWAR: PTI MNA Nasir Khan Musazai on Monday confirmed that he has accepted the JUI-F invitation and would formally join JUI-F in the next few days.

Talking to media men here in Peshawar Press Club (PPC), he said that he had joined PTI in 2018 and was impressed by the slogans of bringing change and improvement in the public sector entities. However, during the four years' rule it had miserably failed in taking a single step towards the achievement of these goals, rather it played havoc with constitutional institutions like the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP), establishment

The MNA said that the PTI leadership has turned the popular slogan ing resignations from the National of change into the slogan of destruction, adding that he was definitely impressed by that slogan. But, now MNAs to appear before the National his political goals will not be achieved Assembly Speaker.

through PTI, then there is no need for him to remain within the ranks of the

To another query, he said that the vision of PTI was only how to enter the power corridor and that was also its case in 2014 when they after defeat in the general elections boycotted the National Assembly proceedings and even today they were not ready to tender resignation from the provincial assemblies of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Punjab.

He said that the PTI government was replaced through a constitutional and legal manner of no-confidence, but they were cursing it and not ready to sit on opposition benches and play their constitutional role in the parliament.

Musazai further said that the PTI leadership was not serious in tender-Assembly and if the case was the opposite, then it should have ordered their

## Distance from establishment must to change Pakistan, Khokhar tells politicians



**Example 2** City Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Former Pakistan Peoples' Party (PPP) leader and former senator Mustafa Nawaz Khokhar said on Monday that the politicians will have to distance themselves from the establishment if they want to put the country on the right

Quoting the PILDAT report which revealed that politicians are avaricious for power, Khokhar said that local body elections were not held in Islamabad and if Pakistan is to be changed, then the politicians will also

have to move away from the estab-He went on to say that the hope-

lessness has spread in the society but the politicians do not talk about the road map, adding that the direction of the government is not right.

The former senator further added that former prime minister and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chairman Imran Khan is a popular leader but everyone come together and take Pakistan towards a solution.

"The establishment has influence in politics, whatever happened in 75years did not improve for the lives of a common man and now the country's economy is at the verge of bankruptcy," the former PPP leader said and added the journey of 75 years has not been good, however India and Bangladesh are ahead of us. "Look at our judiciary, today, Pakistan is being compared to Afghanistan," he added.

#### IHC grants bail to Azam Swati in controversial tweets case

#### **Example 2** City Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Monday granted bail to Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Senator Azam Swati in controversial tweet case, ARY News reported.

As per details, IHC approved the PTI senator Azam Swati's post-arrest bail and ordered to release him against surety bonds of Rs200,000. The court earlier reserved

verdict on Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Senator Azam Swati's bail plea.

Chief justice Amir Farooq heard the bail petition filed by the PTI senator in a controversial tweet

Azam Swati's counsel Babar Awan told the court that he wouldn't name him but a political personality is on bail because of medical reasons and one other political party leader got bail to see him.

The chief justice asked what's the FIA's remarks on this. At this, the FIA counsel said that the special prosecutor couldn't come so the court is requested to adjourn the hearing.

## Solo show by Nazia Ejaz concludes

#### News Desk

ISLAMABAD: An exhibition of exquisite artworks by Australian/ Pakistani artist Nazia Ejaz concluded here Monday at Tanzara Art Gallery.

The artist, who successfully built a niche at the local and international art market, has worked with various artistic themes exploring them in myriad new ways. This exhibition titled "Full Circle" was the continuation of the artist's innovative reflection on the subject of Eve and beyond.

"My previous work was a subject connected to so many threads within my own practice over the last decade, that it would require a much larger body of work to fully explore the ideas. Hence this body of work was my attempt to tug at those threads and allow them to lead me where they may. To see beyond the surface and look past illusions, perhaps, a trance, that brings one full circle," said Nazia about the work.

Nazia's work is avant-garde in nature - Emphasizing on repetitive patterns and lines, she success fully takes liberty in translating her thoughts into exquisite linear rhythms. Her canvases emphasize patterns comprising of florals, silhouettes, loops, and circles allowing meandering lines to create their own magical effect.

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

# FGRF going to rehabilitate 4 modern villages in Sehwan Sharif

**Example 2** Chand Nawab

ISLAMABAD: Faizan Global Relief Foundation (FGRF), a non-profitable organization, is going to rehabilitate four model villages in Bajara, an area of Sehwan Sharif which was damaged by the recent monsoon rains and flash

These model villages were constructed by former Sindh Chief Minister (CM) Syed Abdullah Shah who was the father of incumbent CM Syed Murad Ali Shah. To transform this plan into reality, the FGRF's delegation comprising Chief Executive Officer Imran Gigi along with Chief Operating Officer (COO) Muhammad Adil Attari and Board Member Muhammad Yaqoob Attari held a comprehensive meeting with Sindh CM Murad Ali Shah on Wednesday, December 28, 2022.

He gave the seal of approval appreciating the FGRF's this particular initia- Muhammad Adil Attari informed that tive besides other welfare and develop-



lines in each village with the facility of

electricity, generated by solar energy.

He said the people who would be

ment works for the well-being of the people across the province.

Talking to APP, FGRF COO 50 houses would be built on modern also be given ownership rights of the

He further informed that the foundation had rehabilitated 3,000 houses with an estimated cost of Rs 150 million which were partially damaged in 25 cities including Kalam, Dera Ismail Khan, Charsadda, Rajanpur, Layah, Khairpur, Sukkur, Gambat, Shikarpur, Jacobabad, Larkana, Qambar Shahdadkot, Nawabshah (Benazirabad), Qazi Ahmed, Dadu, Sehwan Sharif, Mehar, Johi, Sujawal, Thari Meerwah, Mirpurkhas, Osta Muhammad, Dera

He said the foundation had also commenced the construction work on fully damaged houses in the following areas of the country which would be

Adil Attari, renewing his pledge, said the FGRF would leave no stone unturned until and unless the flood-afprovided these residential units, would fected people would be properly settled down in their own houses.

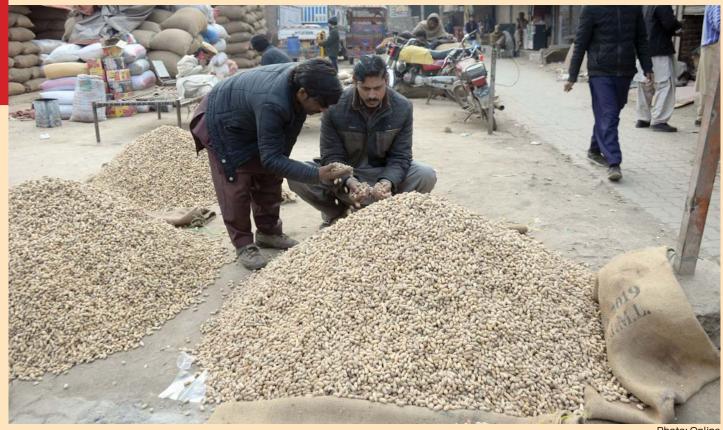
## houses as per assurance of the Sindh

Allah Yar, Bela, and Uthal.

completed in due course of time.

#### Peanuts

FAISALABAD: A vendor is selling peanuts at Ghalla Mandi in the city.



## KP southern district Tank outshine in land record digitization drive

跨 Adam khan Wazir

TANK: It is a real feather in the districts administration's cap to completing computerization of land record despite limited resources and grave challenges mainly flooding and maintaining lasting-peace.

second phase of the land records' digi-Battagram, Nowshera, Charsadda, Hangu, Karak, Haripur, Swabi and Lakki Marwat by the provincial government in 2015.

Among these districts, Tank administration took the lead by completing the process successfully first while at position if districts of phase-I are also taken into account.

in and day out and put up efforts in a coordinated manner, winning laurels for the administration by accomplishbe standing first among southern ing the uphill task to digitize 87 Muza districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa with in district against all odds," Deputy Commissioner Hameedullah Khattak told media.

The district administration was really overstretched while coping The Tank district was included in with these challenges but stunningly it managed to get over by the virtue of tization process with 11 other districts strong determination and high spirit including Swat, Shangla, Mansehra, to serve people and the area under all circumstances.

> Normalcy was restored as result of citizens' cooperation and coordinated efforts of all the line departments under the leadership of the district

provincial level it remains at fourth Centers(SDCs) had been construct- them relief by completely eliminating ed and now the facility of fard, muta-

members who tirelessly worked day promptly get correct information and services about their land record in the district. In order to boost performance of revenue officials the district administration honored six revenue officials(Patwaris) with cash awards and commendation certificates on their good performance during computerization of land record process in the

Meanwhile, people have lauded the district administration for accomplishing the much needed task, saying the incumbent officials have won hearts and minds of the residents. They are of the opinion that properties have been bone of contention among people and such land disputes inflicted heavy costs on residents of the area. They have expressed the hope He said two Service Deliver that the initiative would help provide measurement errors, illegal encroach-

New Year 2023 Resolution Summit' organized by The Language Gallery

Mian Rashid Asghar

FAISALABAD: New Year 2023 Resolution Summit will bring a revolution in the field of education this year. It is the urgent need of the time to have prominent education and training svllabus for male and female students & these young people will have to play the role of heroes in the service and prosperity of the country and the nation.

This was said by the Chairman Standing Committee for Linguistics, Communication and Career Counseling Chamber of Commerce and Industry and CEO The Language Gallery Junaid Mehmood Baig during the New Year 2023 Resolution Summit meeting here today.

The President Dyes and Chemical Merchant Association Sheikh Bilal Waheed, looking at the educational activities in Pakistan, said that the education system in Pakistan is seen as a business, the government does not by the education system.

#### tion etc would be available under ments, and other malpractices in the pay any attention to the problems faced "The credit goes to all my team one roof and people would be able to land record system. = Bank Alfalah disbursed PKR 308 million for

flood-impacted communities in 2022 👺 Bureau Report

largest commercial banks in Pakistan, with the purpose of empowering people so that they shape their own path in life despite all odds, has spent PKR 308 million for flood-impacted communities. When floods hit significant parts of the country, Bank Alfalah came to the forefront with a determination to help rebuild affected areas and formulated a two-phase plan of redeveloping communities in a sustainable, equitable and financially inclusive way.

Earlier in August 2022, Bank Alfalah's Chairman, His Highness Sheikh Nahayan bin Mubarak Al Nahayan, and the Board of Directors had graciously approved USD 10

In the first phase, the Bank part-LAHORE: Bank Alfalah, one of the nered with reliable and trusted non-governmental organizations (NGOs) across Pakistan to rescue the flood-impacted people from hard-hit geographical locations. The second phase is dedicated to rehabilitating and rebuilding the communities.

> In 2022, over PKR 300 million were disbursed for immediate relief and rescue. In pursuant to the financial support, the Bank's vast network of colleagues working in over 850 branches are volunteering to ensure transparency and provide assistance across the inundated areas.

By joining forces with its trusted partners, the Bank has provided 1.5 million meals, serving 280,000 households. As part of immediate million (PKR 2 Billion) to help with rescue and relief, 94 medical camps the extensive relief and rebuilding were set up to provide urgent care

to 27,500 patients with an epidem- His Highness Sheikh Nahayan bin ic of water-borne diseases, including Mubarak Al Nahayan, and the Board dengue, malaria, cholera and typhoid. Furthermore, those in flood-hit locations were provided with 1,100 tents for immediate shelter.

The quantum of Bank Alfalah's response comprises 21 leading NGOs with a vast network across Pakistan. Together with its partners, the Bank provided relief and rehabilitation in 95 locations, including the remote areas of such as Dadu, Sibbi, Usta Muhammad, Kachi, Rajan Pur, Rojhan, Badin, Bala Nari, Chitral, Qilla Saifullah, Shadadkot and various locations across Paki-

Commenting on the magnitude of the Bank's strategic two-phased program with its partners, Atif Bajwa, President and Chief Executive Officer of Bank Alfalah, said: "With the gracious support of the Chairman, track and rebuild their lives.

of Directors, we are working with the most reliable and trusted names in Pakistan to extend support to the most vulnerable communities who have been impacted by floods this year. It is imperative that we intensify our joint efforts and reach more communities in the rebuilding phase with a medium to a long-term plan to help the affected areas.

Lastly, the Bank and Shahid Afridi Foundation have come together to build climate-resilient, low-cost homes to ensure a sustainable future. The Bank is also creating income opportunities for those affected to find a sustainable livelihood. Financial inclusion programs are being designed to facilitate farmers and provide them access to microfinance to get back on

#### DC giving prize on saving life



FAISALABAD: District Administration has declared the rescuer Mr. Abdul Rehman as hero of 2022 who showed bravery in dealing with the man on the top of Faisalabad clock tower. The Deputy Commissioner, Imran Hamid Sheikh went to the house of rescuer and gave a cash prize of 50,000, honorary shield and bouquet on his bravery.

The Deputy Commissioner said that the rescuer dealt with the situation and brought the man down by putting his own life in danger and by dint of his courage, has been declared as the hero of Faisalabad.

He said that, a day earlier, the man Imran has climbed up the Clock tower and remained there for more than two hours who resisting the rescuer. He further informed that, during the rescue activity the rescuer was not only hit with a brick by climber but he was also pushed down the rescuer but he braverily faced the situation and succeeded to overpower him.

He also appreciated the training process of Rescue 1122 that is being provided the rescuers to accelerate the ability to face such emergency situations successfully at the hour of need. He also congratulated his mother for her brave son's courageous contribution in saving a

#### Another 250 MVA transformer installed and energized at 220 kV Vehari Grid Station



**Staff Reporter** 

LAHORE: Under the plan to enhance the transmission capacity of the system, the National Transmission & Despatch Company (NTDC) has successfully augmented/replaced the 2nd 160 MVA Auto Transformer with 250 MVA Auto transformer at 220 kV  $\label{thm:continuous} \begin{tabular}{ll} We hari Grid Station. The said transformer was energized yesterday. \\ \end{tabular}$ 

The NTDC spokesman said that with the energization of aforementioned transformer, the planned augmentation works both at 500 kV Grid Station Multan and 220 kV grid Station have been completed. Under the plan, Three 160 MVA Auto Transformers were replaced /augmented with 250 MVA Auto Transformers and Two Transformers of the same capacity have been replaced/ augmented with 250 MVA Auto transformers at 220 kV grid

The NTDC Spokesman said that a comprehensive plan for phasewise removal of system constraints is in the implementation phase to overcome overloading of the system before summer. This augmentation of the transformers will improve the loading capacity of the grid station and provide relief to MEPCO consumers.

MD NTDC, Engr. Dr. Rana Abdul Jabbar Khan appreciated the concerned project team and other allied departments on the completion of this project.

## **CBD** Punjab issues traffic advisory for Kalma Chowk underpass closure



#### 👺 Bureau Report

LAHORE: Punjab Central Business District Development Authority (PCBDDA), also known as Central Business District (CBD Punjab), has closed Kalma Chowk Underpass for all types of traffic. The step to close the underpass is taken as the construction of CBD Punjab Boulevard and Kalma Chowk Underpass remodelling has entered the next

According to the traffic diversion plan road connecting Saint Marry Park and Center Point is open for traffic. The traffic coming from ly to avoid any inconvenience

Barket Market and going towards Liberty Market will take left towards Muslim Town and will take a U-turn and reach Liberty Market through Gaddafi Stadium. Similarly, traffic coming from Model Town for Liberty Market will also go straight to Muslim Town, take a U-Turn and reach the Liberty Market through the stadium, commuters coming from Firdaus Market, going towards Liberty Market or Main Boulevard, Gulberg, will use Hussain Chowk.

The authority and CTP Lahore have requested the daily commuters to plan their commute according-





SERVICES		
Namaz Ti	mings	
Fajr	5:44 am	
Zohr	12:11 pm	
Asr	3:33 pm	
Maghrib	5:11 pm	

#### .....6:40 pm

<b>EMERGENCY</b>		
Rescue (Police)	15	
Bomb Disposal	15	
Fire Services Rawalpind	i/	
Islamabad	1122 & 16	
Emergency Ambulance.	1122 &	
& Rescue Services	4451122	
Motorway Police	9266044	
Motorway Police9	270601-20	

#### **Women Police Stations**

Islamabad	9222596
Rawalpindi	9270601-20
ENQU	IRY

Edhi Ambulance	115
PIA Flight Info	114
PIA Cargo	9280979
Railway Inquiry	117
Railway Exchange	9270831-5
WASA Rawalpindi	5555489
CAA	9281092
110651	

#### HOSPITALS

CMH	5611111
MH	561116
MH	561116
Cantt Hospital	9270907-11
DHQ	5556311-4
RGH	9290301-7
Holy Family	9290322-7
PIMS	9261170-79
Polyclinic	9218300-09
Shifa International	4603666

#### **DEPARTMENTS**

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

#### **COMPLAINTS**

G-5, G-6, G-7, G-8, G-9, G-10, G-11, G-12, H-8 ..9266316 Wapda Islamabad......9217579-80 Sui Gas Complaint..... 119, 9272249 Wasa Water Tank ...0331-5022125

#### Chairman State Life pledges to continue digital innovation in 2023

#### **Staff Reporter**

KARACHI:-As the sun sets on 2022 and we are moving towards 2023, Shoaib Javed Hussair Chairman of State Life **Insurance Corporation** of Pakistan would like to wish everyone a happy and healthy New Year.

The Chairman continued to say that a leadership team's vision and a board of directors' direction can only be achieved by consistent hard work of SLIC'S workforce; recognizing State life's marketing force, staff and officers, for delivering excellent and record breaking results once again. He further thanked SLIC's policy holders, customers and partners and more than 150 million Pakistanis, who have made State Life's 50th year a truly special year.

State Life is focused on making 2023 an even more special year, ensuring innovative and digital solutions for greater care and services to our policyholders and growth to contribute furthermore to our national economy.

# Implementing Tobacco Health Levy Bill will help Pakistan generate additional 60 billion revenue

#### **Tooba Khan**

ISLAMABAD: Implementing the pending Tobacco Health Levy Bill can help Pakistan in overcoming the current financial challenge. The additional 60 Billion Rupee revenue will not only help in reducing the damage caused by tobacco industry to health and economy but also enable Pakistan to improve its healthcare infrastructure. These views by shared in a press release issued by Society for Protection of Rights of the Child (SPARC) to urge the government to impose of Health Levy on tobacco products to save Pakistani children and youth from the pandemic of tobacco.

Malik Imran Ahmed, Country Head, Campaign for Tobacco Free Kids (CTFK), stated that 2022 was a challenging year for Pakistan's economy. All the factors which have contributed in derailing our economy are discussed in detail except one i.e. tobacco industry. Due to cheap and easy affordability of tobacco products, the economic cost of smoking in Pakistan is PKR 615.07 billion which is equal to 1.6% of Pakistan's GDP but the revenue generated from the tobacco industry is only 20% of the total cost. In 2019, Federal Cabinet approved a bill to impose Health Levy (Additional tax) on tobacco Products to decrease consumption and generate 60 Billion Pakistani



the tobacco industry, many policy makers have continuously block the bill and as a result Pakistan's healthcare and its economy have suffered miserably.

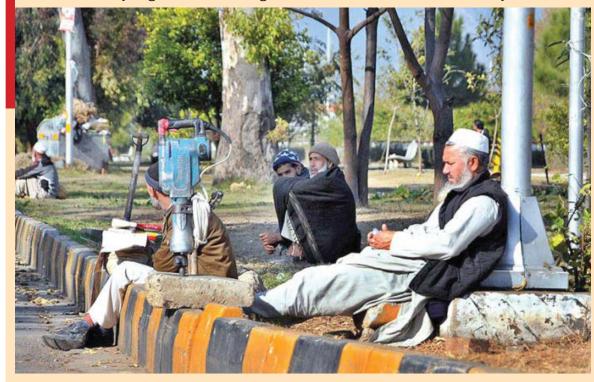
Dr. Ziauddin Islam-Country Lead-Vital Strategies; Former Technical Head/ Director, Tobacco Control Cell, Ministry of NHSR&C shared alarming statistics that 1200 children beginning smoking daily and 170,000 people die due to tobacco induced diseases every year. In order to ensure that the number of smokers in Pakistan, which is already at 31 Million, does not go beyond our control, health levy must be imposed and the revenue gener-

ated must be invested on public health

Khalil Ahmed Dogar, Program Manager, SPARC, mentioned that in 2022 Pakistani children were hit badly with climate change, viral diseases, and poor nutrition due to inflation. We can't afford to put their health in any further risk. However tobacco industry doesn't care that. They only care about their profits. It is responsibility of government to stand with children. Health Levy Bill must be presented in Parliament so it can become an Act and can be implemented across the country. Any delay in this regard will further derail our healthcare system and economy.

#### Waiting for customers

ISLAMABAD: Daily wage labourers waiting for the customers at G9 Area on Monday.



## BankIslami, Pakistan and Institute of Business Management signed MoU

#### **Bureau Report**

LAHORE: BankIslami, Pakistan's leading Islamic bank, and Institute of Business Management (IoBM), one of the top academic institutes in the country entered into an agreement to establish a "Center for Islamic Business & Finance" in Karachi on 28th December,

The MoU signing ceremony was held at the main campus of IoBM and was attended by CEO of BankIslami Syed Amir Ali, President IoBM Mr. Talib S. Karim, and other key personnel from both organizations. As part of the arrangement, BankIslami will assume the role of "Knowledge Partassist the Center in different launch and delivery of cours-

Commenting on the occasion, Syed Amir Ali gave an optimistic verdict regarding the impact of the Center on the Islamic Banking and Finance landscape in the country. "The Islamic Banking and Finance industry has shown growth of around 20% consistently over the years and currently holds a tate Mashal Women Banking 19% market share of the Banking Industry.

ner and Founding Sponsor" are the future, and we should financial outreach and finanthrough which the Bank will facilitate human resource cial inclusion of women. development. Echoing Syed areas such as development, Amir Ali's comments, he advised gauging the Center's es, certifications, programs performance regularly and pertaining to Islamic Banking continuous monitoring of the action points of the MoU to achieve mutual success. Mr. Talib Karim appreciated Bank-Islami's support to IoBM in the fields of research and envisioned the creation of degree programs to facilitate Islamic

IoBM also agreed through a separate MOU to facili-Initiative of BankIslami by conducting women financial Mr. Talib Karim said that literacy sessions, digital skills Islamic banking and finance for women entrepreneurs,

Representing BankIslami Pakistan were Mufti Javed Ahmad, Resident Shariah Board Member; Mr. Kashif Nisar, Head of Products & Shariah Structuring; Mr. Muhammad Irfan Ahmed, Head of Shariah Compliance; Mr. Muhammad Fahim Siddiqui, National Product Manager, Distribution and Head Women Financial Services Department; and Syed Fahad Bin Tariq, Head of Marketing. IoBM was represented by Dr. Imam Uddin, Head of Accounting & Finance Department, IoBM's Rector, Dean, Head of Departments, and other management.

## NUST honours its top-performing researchers, innovators

#### **Spokesman Report**

ISLAMABAD: In recognition of the commitment of faculty members excelling in research and innovation, National University of Sciences & Technology (NUST) held the Research & Innovation Excellence Awards ceremony. Rector NUST Engr Javed Mahmood Bukhari conferred cash prizes and certificates to as many as 53 awardees for the Year 2020 and 2021 for winning Best Researcher, Best Innovator and Top Performer awards. In his address, Rector NUST emphasized that the faculty members are integral part of the university, who are continuously contributing towards achieving research and academic excellence, which is reflected in international rankings and increased national and international collaborations. He urged the faculty members to keep up with the fast-changing requirements of the academia as well as inculcate civic and moral values in the students.

Earlier in his welcome remarks, Pro-Rector NUST to its current standing. He maintained He further said that our faculty has helped us tionally recognised.



RIC-NUST Dr Rizwan Riaz appreciated the that NUST takes pride in its high achievers and grow NUST ecosystem to heights unparalleled contributions of NUST researchers in uplifting acknowledges their meritorious accomplishments. in Pakistan; an ecosystem that is now interna-

### New Year bring prosperity to Pakistan and its people: Aasma Butt



President of All Pakistan Chinese Overseas Youth Federation Aasma Ismail Butt along with her staff expressing good wishes for the beloved country at the beginning of the new year.

#### Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: President of All Pakistan Chinese and Overseas Youth Federation, Aasma Ismail Butt, while offering prayer words for the safety and survival of the beloved nation at the beginning of the new year, said that it is a prayer that May the New Year bring prosperity to Pakistan and its people. The existence of Pakistan is the proof of our independent life. We all have to work together for the development of the country.Pak China Mega Food Festival will be organized for the first time from the platform of Federation. In which stalls containing traditional foods of Pakistan and China will be set up. The purpose of which is to make Pakistan-China friendship stronger and more stable and to introduce each other's culture and traditions.

Aasma Ismail Butt expressed her prayers and best wishes for the success of Pakistan and the Federation at the beginning of the new year 2023. She Spent the whole day with her staff, presented gifts to the staff, Later in her statement, She said that we have to be optimistic at the beginning of the new year. We have to work together for the security and development of the country. The friendship between Pakistan and China consists of several periods, which is getting deeper and stronger with the passage of time. She said that All Pakistan Chinese and Overseas Youth Federation is stand by in the journey of develop-

#### Ambassador Sohail Mahmood assumes charge as Director-General ISSI

#### **Example 2** City Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador Sohail Mahmood has assumed charge as Director-General of the Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI). He took over from Ambassador Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry upon completion of his term.

Ambassador Sohail Mahmood brings with him vast experience of diploma-



cy and high-level decision-making. He served in the Foreign Service of Pakistan for nearly 37 years and rose to the rank of Foreign Secreta serving in that position from April 2019 to September 2022. Prior to that, he was High Commissioner of Pakistan to India from 2017-19. Earlier, he served as Ambassador to Turkiye (2015-17) and Thailand (2009-13). He has also served as Additional Secretary (Afghanistan/ West Asia) and Director-General (Americas) and Director-General (Foreign Secretary's Office). Earlier in his diplomatic career, he served in Pakistan Embassies in Ankara and Washington, D.C., and as a Counsellor at Pakistan's Permanent Mission to the United Nations in New York. He has also served as Director (Iran & Turkiye).

Ambassador Sohail Mahmood holds a Masters degree in International Affairs from Columbia University, New York, and a Masters in History from Quaid-i-Azam University, Islamabad.

#### ICAP Council Member Mr. M. Ali Latif Appointed as SBP's Board Director

#### Spokesman Report



KARACHI: The council member of Institute of Chartered Accountants of Pakistan (ICAP), Mr. M. Ali Latif, is appointed as Non-Executive Director on Board of State Bank of Pakistan (SBP).

Mr. M. Ali Latif is a Fellow Member (FCA) of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Pakistan (ICAP). He has over 20 years of experience in the audit and tax profession and is responsible for managing a wide rang-

ing portfolio of private and public sector clients across different economic sectors. He is currently working as Partner in "M/s Muniff Ziauddin & Co., Chartered Accountants – Representing BKR International.

He is a Council Member of ICAP since 2017 and had earlier also served as an Elected Member of the Northern Regional Committee of ICAP for two consecutive four-year terms. He has also served as Vice President of ICAP & President of Pakistan Institute of Public Finance Accountants - PIPFA. He has also been selected as member of SMP Advisory Group by International Federation of Accountants (IFAC).

Institute of Chartered Accountants of Pakistan (ICAP), the premier accountancy body in Pakistan, has contributed immensely to the success and growth of the accountancy profession in Pakistan and has played a pivotal role in the growth of economic and business sectors

#### AIOU admissions to commence from January 15

#### **№** News Desk

ISLAMABAD,: Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU) is commencing admissions of Spring 2023 semester (first phase), throughout the country including AJK and GB on January 15, 2023. The admissions of matriculation, middle-tech, intermediate, I Com and certificate courses offered in the first phase will continue till February 21, 2023, while admissions in BS (face to face), MS, MPhil and PhD programs will be open from January 15 to February 15, 2023. Admissions in the second phase will be offered from March 1, 2023

AIOU has extended its educational network for overseas Pakistanis and now Pakistanis residing in any country of the world, or any international student can get admission in matriculation, intermediate and I Com programs to enhance their educational qualification.

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#### **Shaheen Afridi** comeback to cricket

haheen Shah Afridi has resumed his rehabilitation after missing the entire home season following a knee injury. It is understood that Afridi is targeting the 2023 edition of the PSL, in February-March, to make his comeback to competitive cricket.

The PCB said Afridi "will resume his rehabilitation under the national men s team s medical staff in Karachi from today. While providing Shaheen top-notch care, this move will allow the medical staff to track his progression and pave way for his smooth return to action.'

Haris Rauf, who made his Test debut against England at the start of December last year in Rawalpindi but injured his quad on the first day itself, has been named in the 24man list of probables for the ODI series against New Zealand, but his fitness would be assessed first.

"The interim selection committee and team management have invited [Rauf] to be assessed by the team s medical staff so a decision on his availability for the three One-Day Internationals against New Zealand-to be played next week-can be made," the PCB said.

Afridi has been troubled by his knee since July, when Pakistan were in Sri Lanka for a Test series. He was out for three-and-a-half months before being brought back, perhaps prematurely, for the men s T20 World Cup in Australia in October-November. He had a good tournament, picking up 11 wickets in seven bowling innings including 4 for 22 against Bangladesh, 3 for 14 against South Africa, and 3 and 24 in the semi-final against New Zealand. But, in the final against England, Afridi could bowl only 2.1 overs after hurting his knee while taking a catch in the deep, and hasn't played since.

Initially, the then management had hoped that Afridi would be fit after two weeks of rehabilitation, and there had been a lot of debate on how the injury had been handled by the PCB and the Pakistan team management. After the injury in July, he travelled with the team to the Netherlands for a three-match ODI series in August, in the hope that he would recover while on tour. That didn't pan out as expected and the PCB eventually announced that he would be out for four-to-six weeks.

Afridi continued to travel with the team; he was in the UAE for the Asia Cup, as another attempt was made to get his rehab going. But medical scans confirmed a posterior cruciate ligament injury and it was eventually decided that he would travel to the UK for further rehab and work with doctors on the PCB medical panel, Zafar Iqbal and Imtiaz Ahmed. He missed the Asia Cup as well as the seven-T20I home series against England in September, before joining the squad in Brisbane ahead of the start of the T20 World

If there was hope that Afridi would return for the home season, which is currently in progress, that didn't happen as the player and his family took a decision to extend his rest and rehab period. Afridi, who also underwent appendectomy in November, has travelled between Peshawar, Lahore and Karachi of late to honour some of his commercial commitments, but hasn't played at all.

## A major challenge to combat climate change

#### Fakhar Alam

mile is back on the face of 70 years-old Amanullah Khan after his 'wood taals' started roaring business in the wake of a significant decline in mercury level during the ongoing harsh cold weather that gripped the Peshawar valley.

Busy like a honeybee in cutting timber of native and indigenous species with a big saw in his 'wood taal' with the support of five laborers located at Pabbi station on main GT Road in Nowshera, Amanullah Khan was working against the time to complete orders placed by hundreds of households, tandoors, hotels and marriage halls during the harsh winter.

Amanullah's sons were seen helping his father in preparing bundles of endangered Shisham, Phulai, Ber, Kikar, Poplar, Neem, Amaltas, Saru and Jaman in his wood taal spread on nearly two acres with trees' trunks spread everywhere on his business place.

The price of one mound (50kg) of firewood starts from Rs 600 to Rs 700 depending on the quality of the timber," said Amanullah, adding that firewood demand increases manifolds in December-January due to shortage of natural gas and high prices of LPG cylinder.

We prefer customers from

of wedding season," he said, adding these timbers were being transported from far-flung areas of Nowshera, Charsadda, Peshawar, and Mardan districts after its purchase from farmers on relatively less price than the government's timber markets.

A visitor can see a large number of cut timbers and even uprooted trunks of trees at wood taals while moving on the main GT Road between Tarnab Peshawar to Azakhel Nowshera depicting the high rate of deforestation in Pakistan, especially in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

According to National Forest Policy 2015, Pakistan's total forest-covered area was five percent and the country was losing about 27,000 hectares of forests per year mainly occurring in private and community-owned natural forests.

The policy revealed that forest resources in all provinces, especially in KP and Gilgit Baltistan were under tremendous pressure, particularly in the communal lands, shamalats, guzara, and privately owned

It said that deforestation in watershed areas has adversely impacted agriculture yield and quantity of water at outlets besides triggering land degradation, and loss of biodiversity, and wildlife in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. In riparian and coasttandoors, hotels, and marriage al areas, especially in Sindh

halls due to high purchase and Balochistan, deforestaand profit margin because tion amplified floods and facilitated sea water intrusion thus inflicting huge economic losses due to the government kitty as evidenced by the devastating 2010 and 2022 floods

Comparing Pakistan's deforestation rate with the world, Dr. Mumtaz Malik, former Chief Conservator of Wildlife KP said that globally around 10 million hectares of forest were deforested every year - equal to the area of Portugal, adding that around half of this deforestation was counterbalanced by re-growing of forests, which means that an overall around five million hectares of the green gold was lost per year worldwide.

"Overpopulation, poverty, and unnecessary trees logging was one of the major causes of deforestation in KP," said Dr. Mumtaz Malik, adding in 1947, Pakistan's population was only 37 million that jumped to a record 223 million in 2022 and if it continued growing with such high pace it is expected to touch 260.3 million in 2030 and 330.8 million by 2050 resulting vanishing of the green gold, wildlife, and bees popu-

Dr. Mumtaz said that about 68 percent of forests in the country were being used as firewood and 15 percent of trees were being lost due to urbanization and community-drivwe do not change our green and timber mafia in self-defense ing Pakistan.

sector policies and shift to the in case of violation of laws." adaptation of alternative energy resources including solar, hydroelectric, biomass and wind then there was every possibility of losing the existing forests in next two decades besides witnessing frequent climate change's disasters," he added.

Dr. Mumtaz said deforestation was a national challenge and there was a need to impose a 'green emergency' to conserve and protect the green gold by looking above the party politics. He also suggested an agreement between Pakistan and Afghanistan to control the smuggling of timber.

Wajid Ali Khan, former Minister for Environment and Forests said that thousands of trees planted under the billions tree afforestation project were prematurely cut in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa which was a violation of the agreement signed between the KP forest department and farmers.

Gulzar Rehman, Conser-KP Forest Ordinance 2002, Forest Force has been raised in KP with powers like the police to protect forest resources and conduct operations against the timber mafia.

The KP forest force was equipped with necessary weaponry, ammunition, vehicles, and a communication system with en demands. He warned, "If the power to shoot offenders

The forest officers can arrest, detain or take an accused into custody besides checking any vehicle, boat, railway wagon, or pack animal and seize the smuggled timber.

Gulzar Rehman said that DFOs/RFOs can enter any depot, wood/saw cutting unit, building, or any premises to search and seize timber and arrest offenders besides holding investigation, inquiry and arrest any offender without any warrant from the magistrate.

Gulzar Rehman said the forest force's jurisdiction has been extended to merged areas where check-posts were also established on national and regional highways and roads to curb timber smuggling. He suggested special forest courts for speedy trial of the accused, an increase in lockups, modern wireless systems, and mobility vehicles imperative to curb timber smuggling.

Muhammad Ibrahim Khan, Deputy Project Director of, the vator Forests said that under 10 billion tree afforestation project said that deforestation was a major reason for climate change, and about 650.17 million saplings were planted till September 30, 2022, in KP under the project to offset its impact. He underscored the need for early operationalization of the COP 29 UN fund to help climate change and deforested-induced countries includ-



## Ensuring irrigation water to tail-enders

#### Dr. Saeed Ahmad Ali

griculture is crucial to economic growth as it accounts for 4 percent of the global Gross Domestic Product (GDP) while in developing countries, it accounts for more than 25 percent

A healthy, inclusive, and sustainable food system is vital for achieving the rapidly growing world's development goals. Agriculture is the main artery of Pakistan's economy.

It produces around 35 percent of the GDP, nearly 59 percent of the total exports, employing almost 57 percent of the workforce. Around 35 million hectares of fertile land are suitable for agriculture in the country.

According to the agricultural statistics, the actual cultivated area in the country is about 20.54 million hectares, of which 5.61 million hectares are rain-fed.

However, over the last century, domestic demand for food supply has risen geometrically. According to the United Nations, at the current growth rate, the global population is expected to be doubled by 2050. By then, the food demand is projected to increase to around 59 percent to 98 percent.

It has been realized around the world that the enormous potential of the agriculture sector to deal with the dilemma is food security. Therefore, the agriculture sector has a

ripple effect on the economy of nations. Likewise, Pakistan's agriculture sector also needs to be shaped in a way that it could meet the target of confronting the projected demand for food. Beyond this, climate departments and influential political figures change-driven issues including urbaniza-

tion, water insufficiency, lack of investment, and rising production costs pose a challenge to national food security.

Traditional food production is not sufficient to meet the demand. Pakistan has become a net importer of food. Therefore, in tandem with the current grain production system, the country needs to adopt manifold productivity measures.

The substantial shortage in agriculture output can be bridged by transforming our barren lands into fertile lands. Drawbacks in the tail-ending irrigation system, deforestation, drought, and intensive traditional farming methods are turning an area half the size of Britain into a desert every year.

Pakistan, being an agricultural country has enormous agricultural potential. Nearly two third of its population is dependent on agriculture-related earnings and activities.

Former chairman of Indus River System Authority (IRSA), Punjab Irrigation Chief Engineer Rao Irshad Ali Khan told APP that the process of stealing water by influential persons through planting devices, pipes, and tubes has been going on for the last many

The only solution to end the woes of tail cultivators and other affected growers of the area is to take strict measures against water theft, resulting in severe water shortfall by ordering appropriate, timely, and spot against those involved in it.

Inam Khan, a leading grower, and landlord at BRB canal said that cultivators and farmers were looking after the supply of water to the tail-end fields in the area. He alleged that feudal lords in collusion with irrigation were engaged in water theft.

He alleged that when an honest officer, on a complaint, visits the area, some irrigation department staffers and their companion Baildars immediately inform the corrupt powerful quarters involved in water theft.

Sajid Bashir, Deputy Collector Revenue in Punjab Irrigation Department said that water theft through some illegal out-lets was also destroying the crops of tail-end cultivators while the land is becoming barren.

From time to time, cases in the tail-end areas of Punjab have been reported that the small growers were being forced to sell their land at a cheaper rate to influential landlords, Bashir informed.

Arshad Shah Assistant Director of Punjab Khal Panchayat Authority (PKPA) told the news agency that the Punjab irrigation department had implemented a plan earlier to update its communication and measurement systems by installing sensors to monitor real-time water flow in the channels (Khals) under its command.

The project started with financial and technical assistance from the World Bank in recent years envisages installing sensors across the barrages, distributaries, canals, and channels to monitor real-time flow with the prime target of curbing canal water theft.

To a query, he said that the Eastern Sadiqi canal system in Punjab Bahawalnagar district has been selected as a pilot project for the ourpose. He said that this canal system has been selected for a far-flung area that is notorious for water theft.

About the project, he informed us that the gradual and phase-wise implementation would help gauge the acceptance of the system by growers who were the real beneficiaries of the project.

## Lula, as he is affectionately known, took office Sunday for a third term as president

#### Spokesman Research

uiz Inacio Lula da Silva, who rose from poverty to Brazil's presidency before crashing into disgrace in a corruption scandal, made a spectacular comeback as leader of Latin America's biggest econ-

Lula, as he is affectionately known, took office Sunday for a third term as president, after beating far-right incumbent Jair Bolsonaro in a bitter election that deeply divided Brazil.

Just a few years ago, the bearded left-wing icon with a trademark raspy voice was a political pariah, controversially jailed in a corruption scandal.

His convictions since quashed by the Supreme Court — which ruled the lead judge in the case had been biased — Lula is now back in the presidential palace he previously occupied from 2003 to 2010.

An emotional Lula broke down in tears after climbing the ramp leading to the Planalto Palace during his inauguration ceremony, thanking the Brazilian people for their faith in him.

This nightmare has come to an end thanks to the sovereign vote of the people," he said. Fall from grace

Lula left office in 2010 as a blue-collar hero who presided over a commodity-fueled economic boom that helped lift 30 million people from poverty.

Despite fears at the time that he would be too radical, Lula's first administration mixed trailblazing social programs with market-friendly economic policy. Lula spent 580 days in jail from April 2018 to

November 2019. He has always insisted he was the victim of a plot to sideline him from the 2018 presidential election which Bolsonaro won, boosted by disgust with Lula's

Workers' Party (PT).

Lula's convictions were thrown out last year by the high court — though he was not exonerated.

Today, Lula is as polarizing as he is popular. Lula grew up in deep poverty, the seventh of eight children born to a family of illiterate farmers in the arid northeastern state of Pernambuco.

When he was seven, his family joined a wave of migration to the industrial heartland of Sao Paulo. Lula worked as a shoeshine boy and peanut vendor before becoming a metalworker at the age of just 14.

In the 1960s, he lost a finger in a workplace acci-Lula rose quickly to become head of his trade union, and led major strikes in the 1970s that challenged the

then-military dictatorship. Once described by former US president Barack Obama as "the most popular politician on Earth," Lula mixes political skill with a folksy touch that endeared

him to many worldwide. "He's a very gifted politician. He's a natural-born negotiator," consultant Leonardo Paz of International Crisis Group Brazil told AFP.

"Lula managed to bring almost everybody from the center-right to the left on his side against Bolsonaro" in the October election, he said.

These included centrist Geraldo Alckmin, who had unsuccessfully challenged Lula for the presidency in 2006, and will now be his vice president. Lula, a twice-widowed father of five, survived throat

cancer diagnosed in 2011. In 2017, he lost his wife of four decades, Marisa Leticia Rocco, to a stroke. Lula has said he is again "in love as if I were 20 years old" with now first lady Rosangela "Janja" da Silva, a

sociologist and PT activist 21 years his junior whom he married in May. He has said he will not seek reelection when his

current term runs out at the end of 2026.

## Indonesia sent additional logistics for flood relief in Pakistan

Spokesman Report

KARACHI: The third and fourth batch of humanitarian assistance from the people and the Government of Indonesia for people of Pakistan have arrived in Karachi. The logistics worth's around USD 193.000 contains hygiene kits, tents, clothes, blankets, sleeping bags, and mosquito nets with total weight

Consul General Dr. June Kuncoro Hadiningrat representing Indonesian government delivered the assistance to the representative of National Disaster Management Authorities (NDMA) of Pakistan in Karachi.

Indonesia Sent Additional Logistics for Flood Relief in PakistanThe two governments signed grant agreement on 22 December in which the Indonesian government presented assistance amounting to around USD 1 Million to NDMA of Pakistan. The grant previously pledged by President Joko Widodo during telephonic conversation with PM Shehbaz Sharif will be utilized in the recovery and rehabilitation of the aftermath of the 2022 Pakistan Floods. submerged.



Floodwaters continue to recede in many flood-affected areas across Pakistan. Last report of UN on 06/12 indicated around 11 districts of Sindh most vulnerable population in the and 2 districts in Balochistan are still

As the two biggest Muslim majority countries, Indonesia and Pakistan have strong bonds of brotherhood and friendship. The two countries have always supported each other at 29 health professionals to the affected the time of natural calamities. Early on areas in Sindh Province.

September 2022, the government of the Republic of Indonesia has sent first batch of assistance weighing around 90 tons, followed by the dispatchment of

## Third martyrdom anniversary of the assassination of General Soleimani

**Spokesman Report** 

ISLAMABAD: Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Islamabad issued a statement On the Martyrdom anniversary of General Lieutenant Qasem Soleimani.

On the third anniversary of the assassination of Lieutenant General Soleimani, the commander of the Quds Force Corps, along with his companion Abu Mahdi al-Muhandis and several of their retinues, I.R. Iran Embassy in Islamabad once again strongly condemns this hideous terrorist action tantamount to state terrorism. The act of terrorism against an official and high-ranking military staff of the UN member state was an obvious breach of international law, Geneva Conventions and facilitated by hypocrites. military customs and regulations. This ed the axis to combat against Takfiri tional community. groups and now the region is engaged



of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard in the negative consequences emerging from the lack of a proficient and stalwart commander.

The so-called preventive assassination was categorically meant to eliminate a competent and triumphant force, but soon after it proved to be a miscalculation strategic illusion exercised by an awkward quasi-politician, prompted by associate elements and

action, being an act of crime and an double standards even in the defini- accountability under such crimes and act of aggression is considered to be a \_\_tion and implementation of the most \_\_to provide impunity for the commitgreat threat to the peace and security evident and basic principle of international ters of the international crime as such. of the world and the region. By assastional law and human right. Examples However, the Islamic Republic of Iran sinating one of the greatest and veter- of this kind of double standard and an commanders to fight against terror- hypocrisy by the USA are galore in the ism and extremism, the USA enervat- contemporary history of the interna-

Nowadays, the people of the region

are affected by the miscalculations, strategic errors, interventions and opportunism by the exterior countries. No nation like Iran and Pakistan has ever been affected by the plague of terrorism and it continues to exist. Terrorism is the common pain of the two Muslim nations and a lot of pure blood has shed on this path.

Now, three years passes since the unmanly assassination of Gen. Qasem Soleimani, I.R. Iran is still resolute to hold the committers, supporters and assistants of this brutal crime accountable and to prosecute them in a fair and equitable court of justice. This action is regarded as an international criminal act indictable in the international tribunals, International Criminal Court (ICC) being one, the scope of the mechanism of which the USA escaped The state terrorism revealed the some two decades ago in order to evade will officially use its political, legal and international capacities in order to take action and prosecute and indict the perpetrators of this hideous crime through recognized legal mechanisms. in the New Year.

#### Over 60 Russian troops killed in eastern Ukraine

MOSCOW: Sixty-three Russian troops were killed in eastern Ukraine as Kyiv forces struck a camp using US-supplied Himars Rocket Systems, the Russian defence ministry announced on

Without claiming the strike, Ukraine's military said the death toll from a strike in the town of Makiivka in the Moscow-controlled part of the eastern region of Donetsk was much higher.

"As a result of a strike by four missiles with a high-explosive warhead on a temporary deployment point, 63 Russian servicemen were killed," the defence ministry said in a statement.

"All the necessary assistance and support will be provided to the relatives and loved ones of the deceased servicemen," the defence ministry

rare announcement of Russian losses in Ukraine.

The defence ministry did not say when the strike took place, but Ukrainian forces are believed to have struck as Russian troops rang

## UN should implement its resolutions on Kashmir: **AltafBhat**

**Spokesman Report** 

Chairman Bhat added.

ISLAMABAD: Chairman of Jammu & Kashmir Salvation Movement (JKSM) Altaf Ahmed Bhat in a press statement here in Islamabad today in reference to 5th Jan-int'l day for right of self determination-said that the United Nations (UN) should implement its resolutions on Kashmir, make India give right of self determination to Kashmiris and restore its lost reputation.

Kashmir issue is langvishing since the inception of UN, its time for a perpetual peace and stability of South Asia it must be resolved as per agreed upon UN resolutions.

He said that India's occupation of Kashmir is oppressive and punitive, which the Kashmiri people have not accepted even for a moment. Thousands of our brothers and sisters have been martyred, tortured, houses demolished and businesses destroyed but the brave Kashmiris never surrendered to Indian military might.

Chairman JKSM further added that all these sacrifices have been made by the Kashmiri nation for the right of freedom for our motherland. India has taken away the right of freedom of Kashmiris by force. Every day, innocent Kashmiris are being martyred, women are raped and molested, children are terrified while youngsters are suffering from psychological traumas.

#### Kashmiris to observe Right to Self-Determination Day on January 5



跨 🛮 Abdul Majeed Tahir

 $MIRPUR\,(AJK)\hbox{:}\ The\ Jammu\ \&\ Kashmir\ people\ living\ on\ both\ sides$ of the line of control and rest of the world will observe the Right to Self-Determination Day on Thursday (Jan 5) with the renewal of the pledge to continue their ongoing indigenous struggle with full vigor till the achievement of their legitimate right through implementation of the U.N resolutions, it was officially said.

In Azad Jammu Kashmir, the public rallies, besides special gatherings and processions, in all nine district headquarters of the liberated territory would be the hallmark of the day.

The special public meetings would highlight the importance of early grant of the right to self-determination to Jammu Kashmir people which was being suppressed and denied by India since over last 75 years, an AJK government spokesman told APP here Monday.

Speakers in these meetings would reiterate Kashmiris just and principled stance before the world that they (Jammu Kashmir people) would continue their struggle for right to self determination till the achievement of the ultimate goal.

They would particularly highlight the reality with the earnest demand bout early grant of the birth right to self determination to Kashmiris without further delay.

The right to self-determination day reiterates the long cherished demand of the Kashmiris that they should be granted their birth right to decide about their destiny under the spirit of the internationally-acknowledged U.N resolutions, passed by the Security Council this day - January 05, 1949.

"It would be once again declared by the Kashmiris before the world, through the special meetings at both sides of the line of control and rest of the world that the Kashmir problem should be resolved only in accordance with the United Nations resolutions - and no solution of the lingering global dispute sans the aspirations of the Kashmiris would be acceptable to them (Jammu Kashmir people)", said sources of National Events Organising Committee (NEOC), the major organizer of the scheduled special meetings to be held on January 5 in Mirpur district.

## Pakistan's hospitality to host over 1.4m Afghan refugees unparalleled

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Despite its economic and social pressures, Pakistan has been hosting over 1.4 million Afghan refugees and and 850,000 Afghan Citizen Card holders for four decades while adhering to the highest standards of protection, even during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Owing to the unparalleled hospitality by Pakistan, the the Afghan citizens who travrefugees as well as Afghan Citizen Card holders enjoy free enrollment in government primary schools and access to higher education with generous scholarships, along with bank accounts and numerous livelihood opportunities.

However, regardless

all-out humanitarian measures by Pakistan, the Afghan and Indian media as well as the disgruntled elements continue to malign Pakistan through baseless propaganda, exploiting any situation. Recently, the Afghan media

tried to create misconception about Pakistan vis-à-vis the arrest of some Afghan refugees in Sindh province. According to official sources,

elled to Sindh were arrested by the Sindh Police for not having legal residence documents. Which country of the world will tolerate illegal immigrants who travel anywhere in the host country without legal

matter any other country accepts such irregularities in their own countries," a security analyst questioned.

The analyst said that the documents? Will Afghani-Indian media taking advanstan itself or India or for that tage of detention of few Afghan

refugees in Sindh and creating misconceptions should be mindful of India's treatment of Afghan refugees.

He said that out of 21000 Afghans living in India, about 11000 are registered as asylum-seekers but not officially recognized as refugees.

Afghans residing in India even for last 15 years are suffering from socio-economic ordeals as they have no mode of income, education or health

Moreover, New Delhi officially treats Afghan refugees and asylum seekers in India as illegal migrants under its Foreigners Act of 1946, an act that does not recognize the rights of refugees or asylum seekers pertaining to access to social services or protection from refoulment.

Recently, India had revoked the visas of the Afghan student despite knowing that thousands of them were depend-

#### NASA mulls SpaceX backup plan for crew of Russia's spaceship

WASHINGTON: NASA is exploring whether SpaceX's Crew Dragon spacecraft can potentially offer an alternative ride home for some crew members of the International Space Station after a Russian capsule sprang a coolant leak while docked to the orbital lab.

NASA and Russia's space agency, Roscosmos, are investigating the cause of a punctured coolant line on an external radiator of Russia's Soyuz MS-22 spacecraft, which is supposed to return its crew of two cosmonauts and one US astronaut to Earth early next year.

But the Dec 14 leak, which emptied the Soyuz of a vital fluid used to regulate crew cabin temperatures, has derailed Russia's space station routines, with engineers in Moscow examining whether to launch another Soyuz to retrieve the three-man team that flew to ISS aboard the crippled MS-22 craft.

If Russia cannot launch another Soyuz ship, or decides for some reason that doing so would be too risky, NASA is weighing anoth-

## 'Israeli culpability in Palestine will also confirm India's culpability in IIOJK, Pakistani envoy

News Desk

UNITED NATIONS: India's abstention on a UN General Assembly's landmark resolution calling on the International Court of Justice (ICJ) to give an opinion on the legal consequences of Israel's illegal occupation of Palestinian territories, reflected New Delhi's drive to pursue Israeli model of demographic engineering in Indian Illegal Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) to turn Muslim majority

into a minority, diplomats said. The 193-member Assembly

on Friday voted 87 in favour to 26 against with 53 abstentions demographic change and denion the resolution, co-sponsored by Pakistan, which saw Western nations divided but it garnered unanimous support of the Islamic world. Russia and China voted in favour of the resolution.

Israel, the US and 24 other members - including the United Kingdom and Germany - voted against the resolution, while India and France were among the 53 nations that abstained.

"India's abstention derives from its own policies of occupation in Jammu and Kashmir,

usurpation of Kashmiri lands, al of the right to self determination — the precise issues of Israeli occupation on which the General Assembly has sought an advisory opinion from the ICJ." Pakistan's UN Ambassador Munir Akram said in in an interview with APP

correspondent. "Israeli culpability in Palestine will also confirm India's culpability in IIOJK," the Pakistani envoy added.

The resolution — titled 'Israeli practices affecting the human rights of the Palestinian people in

the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem' calls on the ICJ to determine the "legal consequences arising from the ongoing violation by Israel of the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination" as well as of its measures "aimed at altering the demographic composition, character and status" of the holy city of Jerusalem. It also calls on the UN Secre-

tary-General to present a report on the implementation of the resolution in the upcoming session of the UN General Assembly in September 2023.



Ambassador Riyad Mansour, to the United Nations, hailed the Palestine's permanent observer countries that were "undeterred change to the ICJ.

voted in favour of the resolution. "This vote comes one day after the new Israeli government was

by threats and pressure" and

formed pledging to accelerate colonial and racist policies against the Palestinian people," Ambassador Mansour added.

The abstention from India, which portrays itself as a supporter of the Palestinian cause, was especially noted as it underlined its apprehensions about the implications of referral of the issues of occupation, illegal settlements and demographic

Tuesday, January 3, 2023

#### **Bull & Bears** PSX 100-Share

Index Fluctuation			
Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index			
Current	Prev. Close		
40,815.90	40,420.45		
Day's High	Day's Low:		
41,027.51	40,348.89		
Index Value	Change		
5,715,617,696	+395.45		
Percentage	Time		
+0.98%	30 Dec, 2022 5:00 pm		
Europe: FTS	E 100 Index		
Index Value	Change		
7,451.74	-60.98		
Percentage	Time		
-0.81%	30 Dec, 12:35 pm GMT		
USA: Dow Jones I	ndustrial Average		
Index Value	Change		
33,147.25	-73.55		
Percentage	Time		
-0.22%	30 Dec, 5:10 pm GMT-5		
Asia Pacific: Nikk	ei Stocks Average		
Index Value	Change		

#### **Open Market Forex Rates**

+0.83

Time 30 Dec, 3:15 pm

GMT+9

26,094.50

Percentage

+0.0032%

Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	155.55	156.85
Bahrain Dinar	603.5	608
Canadian Dollar	168.15	169.5
China Yuan	32.51	32.76
Danish Krone	32.35	32.7
Euro	260.5	263.1
Hong Kong Dollar	28.99	29.34
Indian Rupee	2.72	2.8
Japanese Yen	2.35	2.4
Kuwaiti Dinar	739.1	744.1
Malaysian Ringgit	50.95	51.4
NewZealand \$	144.1	145.3
Norwegians Krone	22.48	22.78
Omani Riyal	588.08	592.58
Qatari Riyal	61.75	62.25
Saudi Riyal	65.1	65.7
Singapore Dollar	167.97	169.27
Swedish Korona	21.83	22.13
Swiss Franc	242.75	244.5
Thai Bhat	6.52	6.62
U.A.E Dirham	68.55	69.15
UK Pound Sterling	296.6	299.6
US Dollar	233.7	235.7

## Usage of agri waste preparation of animals' feed in low cost

#### **Example 2** Commerce Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Agricultural Research Council (PARC) conducted a seminar on ALP project entitled "Evaluation of Crop Residues Based Total Mixed Fermented Rations for Ruminants" at Livestock Research Station (LRS), ASI, National Agricultural Research Centre (NARC) on 30th December, 2022. The aim of seminar/project was of growers and scientists relating "Usage of agri waste prepared silage in preparation of animals'

The Chairman, Pakistan Agricultural Research Council (PARC), Dr. Ghulam Muhammad Ali while addressing the participants of the seminar said Livestock has an important role in promoting socioeconomic development in rural areas. Livestock has potential for poverty alleviation. Recent past the price of feed and feed ingredients is increasing day by day in this scenario there is a dire need to introduce and include low-cost alternate feed resources to reduce the feeding cost. PARC / NARC animal scientists are striving for the betterment of livestock farmers in Pakistan. Dr. Ali has vowed to facilitate the growers in use of agri stuff based silage in preparation of animal food. The use of sugar beet pulp silage or citrus pulp silage instead of maize silage not only reduces the feeding cost from 25 to 30% but can also improve the production performance of the livestock. He said that the farmers needed to be informed about the outcome of the project to earn maximum for economy of the country from it. He appreciated the scientists for their committed efforts urged them to continue to work with more commitment in future

Dr. M. Iqbal Anjum, Project In charge shared the detailed information on feeds and nutrition of cattle and buffaloes. He highlighted that according to an estimate; about 60 to 70% of the cost on rearing of livestock is on feeding. An estimated 2.1 million tons of sugar beet pulp and citrus pulp are produced annually in the country.

The seminar was concluded with the vote of thanks.

# ICCI invites Pakistani Diaspora to explore JVs and investment in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD: The UK and USA are major trading partners of Pakistan and Pakistan wants to further strengthen its trade and economic ties with these countries to achieve beneficial outcomes for its economy. This was said by FaadWaheed, Acting President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry while addressing a delegation of Pakistani origin politicians and business community from UK and USA that visited ICCI led by Imran Hussain Member UK Parliament and Shadow Minister Employments.

Faad that Pakistan-UK bilateral trade is currently around £ 2.9 billion and Pakistan-USA bilateral trade is around US\$ 10.5 billion, which is still below its actual potential. He said that more serious efforts are needed to further improve Pakistan's trade with UK and USA. He said that Pakistani diaspora in UK and USA should play more effective role in further enhancing trade and investment relations of Pakistan with these important markets. He said that Pakistan is a huge



tremendous potential for joint ventures and of trade delegations to explore all untapped investment in various sectors of its economy. He invited Pakistani diaspora in UK and USA to explore JVs and investment in Pakistan and assured that ICCI would extend all possible cooperation to them in such efforts.

Vice President ICCIsaid that Pakistan has good potential to export more products to UK that ICCI would provide its full cooperation to dentPakistan Federal Union of Journalists and market of over 220 million consumers with and USA. He stressed for regular exchange connect them with right partners in Pakistan. others were in the delegation.

areas of mutual cooperation of Pakistan with UK and USA.

Khalid Iqbal Malik, Group Leader ICCI said that Pakistani diaspora should consider investing in housing & construction, oil & Engr. Muhammad Azharul Islam Zafar, gas exploration, infrastructure development, neurs 7 Politican, Nadeem Ahmed KhanChairtourismand other sectors in Pakistan. He said manKhubaib Foundation, Afzal ButtPresi-

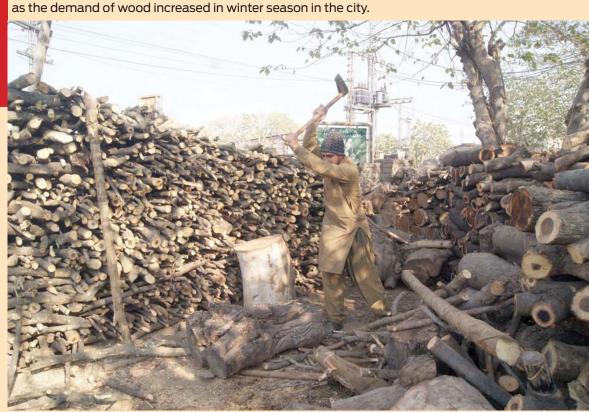
Speaking at the occasion, Imran Hussain, Member Parliament UK and Shadow Minister for Employments said that they all are friends of Pakistan and want to act as a bridge between Pakistan and UK. He also invited ICCI delegation to visit UK and they will host it. He thanked ICCI for giving warm reception to the delegation.

Lord Wajid Khan & Lord Qurban Hussain, Members House of Lords UK, Yasmin Dar Deputy Mayor of Manchester and others also spoke at the occasion and stressed that Pakistan should create conducive environment for young Pakistani diaspora in UK and USA for investing in Pakistan.

Arshad Rachyal Secretary General Pakistan Press Club UK, Zahir Ahmed Maher Chairman Overseas Pakistan Global Foundation, Tahira Mohammad USA Chair of Pakistan Organization Worker Education & Rights, NawabUd Din USA Chairman Signature Limo NY, Syed Ali Kamran Kirmani USA Entrepre-

#### Demand of wood increased in winter season

RAWALPINDI: A wood cutter busy in cutting wood into pieces with axe for selling at his work place



## Many unable to bring food to the table: Mian Zahid Hussain

#### 

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 Monday said the year 2022 proved to be the worst for the people, economy, and businesses.

The country plunged into floods, political, economic, and financial crises, terrorism resurfaced and the people faced unprecedented problems due to inflation and other issues.

Small and large sectors that drive the economy have been hit by the recession, and crisis for an indefinite period and the default of the country is being propagated due to political interests.

Mian Zahid Hussain while interacting with the business community said that last year was difficult for many sectors including agriculture, textiles, import-dependent industries, and the auto industry which affected the economy and caused widespread unemployment.



The Pakistani currency fell by almost 50% against the US dollar, interest rates rose to 16%, inflation remained at 31% and food prices skyrocketed while the political turmoil continued in full swing, he added.

It seems that even in 2023, the problems may not be reduced. Despite the alarming situation of Pakistan's economy, relations with the IMF were strained by breaking promises.

The business leader noted that tensions

with IMF which turned away the private creditors and friendly countries, while abandoning the free-floating exchange rate policy reduced exports and remittances.

At present, Pakistan needs billions of dollars in loans to save the country, strengthen the economy and restore economic activities, but the lenders are unable to manage it as loans from other sources can only be materialized when IMF has a positive view of Pakistan.

Mian Zahid Hussain further said that the government is repaying foreign loans but this process cannot be continued for long because no lasting solution is possible without reforms, privatization, and removing weaknesses in the agriculture, industry, and energy sectors.

Pakistan owes 30 percent of loans to Chin, and 20% of loans are from Saudi Arabia, while the IMF can relax its position if America wants, so instead of angering important countries as the previous government did, relations with all important countries should be urgently improved, he said.

the country He said the conferences

### **SECP** issues consolidated circular for Modaraba Sector

#### Sommerce Reporter

ISLAMABAD: In a bid to improve efficiency and compliance in the Modaraba sector, the Securities and Pakistan (SECP) has consolidated all statutory and regulatory requirements in one Circular. The step is taken as part of SECP's efforts for creating an enabling environment for the Islamic finance sector in the country.

The consolidated circular circulars, notifications, clarifications, and directives that have been issued by SECP since 1999 for the Modaracations, repealed and redun- www.secp.gov.pk/laws/

have been deleted. All the up-to-date statutory and regulatory requirements have been compiled in a systematic order.

A comprehensive exercise Exchange Commission of has been done to review all previously issued circulars, clarifications, and notifications. The objective is to provide a comprehensive and prudent regulatory environment for the Modaraba sector while ensuring ease and efficiency in compliance.

A list of all repealed circu-SRO 2310 contains all prior lars and notifications issued since 1999 has also been provided at the end of the consolidated circular. The said circular is available at ba sector while all the dupli- SECP's website at: https:// dant statutory requirements circulars/.

#### **3rd International Solar Clean Energy** Conference-2023



#### 跨 Spokesman Report

KARACHI: Azad Jammu and Kashmir Minister for Energy and Water Resource, Chaudhry Arshad Hussain, performed the soft launching of the 3rd International Solar Clean Energy Confer-

The AJK Minister appreciated that the organizer of the upcoming conference, the Energy Update, had been constantly organizing conferences and exhibitions to promote indigenous and renewable sources of energy abundantly available in

being organized by Energy Update on hydroelectric- es that are in abundance in

resource were a step ahead toward the energy independence of Pakistan.

Naeem Qureshi, Chairman of the organizing committee of the conference, said that the timing of the upcoming solar clean energy conference couldn't be more suitable as it was being organized when the government had been desperately looking for reliable means for ensuring the least dependency on imported fossil fuels for electricity production.

He said the conference would be held to help the government in its drive to ensure maximum utilization of clean energy resourcity, wind, and solar power every part of the country.

### Chief Traders Alliance Federation meet with Governor KPK

#### 👺 Bureau Report

PESHAWAR: Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Haji Ghulam Ali has said that the problems faced by the business community will be solved on priority basis The federal government has been contacted on the issues of taxes on residential houses in Cantt. Work has started on the project to solve the gas problem at a cost of one and a half billion rupees. Concerns of traders regarding load shedding of electricity in Peshawar cantt will be removed. New transformers will be installed in Peshawar cantt.

He expressed these views during a meeting with traders of Peshawar Cantt under the leadership of Ghulam Bilal Javed, head of Traders Alliance Federation.On this occasion, busi-



nessmen Amin Hussain Babar, well-known industrialist Abdul Haseeb Chaghatai, Sanaullah, Ghulam Bilal Javed is always Shahidullah were also present. The traders of Peshawar Cantt informed the Governor of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa about the problems faced by them Governor Haji Ghulam Ali while appre-

Trade Alliance Federation Chief Ghulam Bilal Javed said that ahead for the rights of traders. The business community considers Governor House as their home. This city owes us a lot.

Gas problem will be solved in Peshawar, God willing. The probciating the performance of lem of law and order lies with the

provincial government, but as a governor, I will take full measures to improve law and order.We are political people and this position is temporary. The problems faced by the business community will be resolved .The doors of the governor's house are open till 9:00 pm,It doesn't matter if the elections are two months earlier or two months later, I stand with the business community I have contacted the federal government regarding tax issues and God willing, there will be good effects For the development of Peshawar, all schools of thought, including the business community, have to play their role Electricity problems will be solved very soon.

Peshawar is a historical city but there is no planning, lack of vision The problem of parking lots will also be solved.

### Carrefour rewards customers with 150 free trolleys per day

#### News Desk

ISLAMABAD: Carrefour, owned and operated by Majid Al Futtaim in Pakistan, has announced its exciting campaign, 'Win your Trolley, to kick off 2023. Customers have a chance to win their shopping trolleys for free via a spin-the-wheel game from 1 - 18 January.

The mechanics of the campaign are extremely simple and all Carrefour stores across Pakistan will be participating. A



game wheel will be mounted near the cash counters, for Carrefour colleagues to spin at random and select the 'winning' counter. The customer checking out during that time will be announced as the winner to take their shopping for free.

# Kits launching ceremony of 20-K Cup T20 Cricket Tournament held

**Spokesman Report** 

LAHORE: The kits launching ceremony of 20-K Cup 2023 T20 Cricket Tournament was held here at the Model Town Greens Cricket Academy on Monday.

The simple but impressive ceremony was attended by former Test Cricketers Ali Naqvi and Aizaz Cheema, who graced the occasion as chief guests, while other notables present were Chief Organizer Shoaib Dar, captains and representatives of all the twenty participating teams, their officials and other organisers of the event. Former Pakistan captain Wasim Akram has been named as brand ambassador of this tournament.

Speaking on the occasion, both the chief guests lauded the positive step taken by the organizers and especially Nabeel Ahmad, patron and sponsor of the competition, for holding such a big event of clubs, which will definitely help the club players to exhibit their prowess and get the opportunities at a high-

The chief guests were of the view that more such generous people and corporate giants should come forward to sponsor club cricket, which is the real nursery



that provides the country bright future stars. "Now the need of the hour is to fully support such causes that can contribute to Pakistan cricket in the best possible manner", they added.

Captains of different teams expressed their gratitude to Nabeel Ahmad the patron and sponsor of the tournament for holding the tournament at a time when club cricket is at the verge of collapse.

They termed the holding of the event a step forward to revive the sagging fortune of club cricket.

"Lahores club cricket badly needs such tournaments on regular basis to identify fresh blood and to groom it for future needs," they said adding, "We are confi-

dent that the sponsor of the event will continue his efforts in future as well to provide ideal platform to aspiring cricketers to demonstrate their skills and tech-

They said beautiful kits have been prepared for all the teams and top level arrangements have been made to hold the event in a befitting manner.

"We look forward to an exciting and thrilling cricket event for the entertainment of lovers of cricket," they said.

The winner of the event will be pocketing Rs, 500,000 and runners-up Rs 250,000. The other cash awards are MOM 30,000, Best Bowler 25,000, Best Batsman 25,000, MOM semifinal

10,000, MOM Final 20,000 and Most

The participating teams include Ali Garh Cricket Club, Apollo Cricket Club, City Gymkhana Cricket Club, Cricket Centre Club, Golden Star Cricket Club, Ludhiana Gymkhana Cricket Club, Lucky Star Cricket Club, Model Town Cricket Club, Model Town Greens Cricket Club, Model Town Whites Cricket Club, PakLions Cricket Club, Pindi Gymkhana Cricket Club, Prince Cricket Club, P & T Cricket Club, Shah Faisal Cricket Club, Shah Kamal Cricket Club, Shinning Cricket Club, Township Whites cricket Club, Valencia Cricket Club and Yu Slim Cricket Club.

The opening match will be played between Model Town Greens and Pindi Gymkhana at Model Town Greens Ground. The venues of the tournament are Model Town Greens Cricket Club, Model Town Cricket Club, Pindi Gymkhana Cricket Club, Ali Garh Cricket Club and Cricket Center Club. Pakistan Cricket Board's affiliated umpires, match referees and scores will officiate in the matches. All the matches will be shown live on different social media plat-

## **National Climbing** Championships conclude

👺 Quratual Ain

ISLAMABAD: National Sport Climbing Championships organized by Alpine Club of Pakistan, the national climbing federation concludes at Islamabad. About thirty climbers from different affiliated units participated in three disciplines i.e. Speed, Bouldering and Lead.

Mir Abu ZarFaiz, Zaheer Ahmed, Saifuddin, Huzaifa Imran, Mushahid Shah, Umar Bilal Zafar, Yasir-Shahzad, earned positions in the championships. Mr. Abu ZarFaiz earned four medals. He alongwith few other climbers of junior category also participated in open category and earned gold medal. He also set new He decorated the climb-

was held o newly built boul- and other outdoor pursuits.



dering wall. Mr. AlmaasSabir, Chairperson of AIMs Education System was the Chief Guest at this occasion. participants and appreciat-The award ceremony was highlighted the importance competitions and training eld at AIMs Education of sports and stressed the System where champion- need to attract more children challenges being faced by the Zahid Bashir Dar, Mujtaba ship of Bouldering discipline and youth towards climbing Federation.

Mr. Abu ZafarSadiq, President, Alpine Club of Pakistan also addressed the ed the performance of the national record of speed 7:31 ers with the medals. While climbers. He assured that addressing the athletes, he ACP would continue to hold for athletes, despite financial

Mr. Sadiq announced that also present at this occasion.

Kids National Sport Climbing Championship shall be held 15th January, 2023 at Islamabad. The boys

At this occasion, Mr. KarrarHaideri, RehmatullahQureshis, AkramAwan, NajeebKhattak, SajidAslam, Tariq Abbasi, IfrahimSatti Ahmed, Abdul Wahid were

## Pakistan claw back through Salman, Naseem after Conway hundred

Duo shared five wickets as New Zealand lost 5 for 45 in final session, after Conway-Latham century stand

KARACHI: Agha Salman struck thrice with his offbreaks, while Naseem Shah's encouraging reverse swing continued to trouble New Zealand, who lost five for 45 in the final session after dominating play across the morning and afternoon. The visitors had piled up 119 and 107 in the first two sessions for the loss of one wicket. The last one fetched them only 83 runs with the loss of five more.

Devon Conway hit 122 out of New Zealand's total of 309 on the first day, riding his luck on the way to a fourth Test hundred, and continuing on a fantastic start to his Test career after becoming the fastest from his country to 1000 runs in the format during the first Test of the tour. He also made up after falling for 92 in the first match.

Play in the evening began with Abrar Ahmed bowling his 15th over in a row-albeit separated by the tea break. Naseem then beat Kane Williamson's outside edge on the first ball of the second over after resumption, only for replays to show a faint tickle. That was a sign of things to come, as Naseem kept clocking 140kph while reversing the ball against both Williamson and Conway.

But it was Salman who struck first, getting the ball to dip and turn away from and edged behind to Sarfaraz Ahmed in the 63rd over. Next over, Naseem pitched one perfectly on the fuller side of a length on fourth stump, with Williamson's outside edge



during the first day of the second cricket Test match between Pakistan and New Zealand at the National Stadium, in Provincial Capital. Photo: Online

also landing in the gloves of Sarfaraz, who went low and tumbled in front of first slip to complete the grab.

That left New Zealand with virtually two new batters at the crease in Henry Nicholls and Daryl Mitchell, with the latter happy to take a good stride forward and getting across off stump to Conway, who went jabbing try and negate the movement Naseem got it. Naseem tried going around the wicket-and with it, wide of the crease-to the left-hander Nicholls, as both he and Salman tied the

two batters down.

That is when Mitchell fell to a classical offspinner's dismissal, missing his clip across the line when Salman tossed one up outside off and got it to turn in through bat and pad, and hit off stump. With the ball having split its seam, the umpires changed

it immediately after. But Pakistan stuck to Hasan Ali and Salman, as they kept the scoring in check, with the fast bowler preferring to go short, and the offspinner teasing the batters with loop. Salman got his third just seven deliveries before the second new ball was due, although credit for that would go to Babar Azam.

Standing at slip, Babar was the only one who reacted and half-appealed after Nicholls tried to slash a short ball outside off turning away from him. He opted for the review at the last second after umpire Aleem Dar ruled it not out and UltraEdge showed a little snick behind to Sarfaraz.

That was the fourth of Dar's 12 decisions overturned throughout the two Tests on this tour. And New Zealand slid further when Abrar, expensive throughout the day, hit Michael Bracewell flush in front to get him for the third time in as many occasions in the series. The visitors were six down, as Tom Blundell and Ish Sodhi saw them off to stumps.

Earlier in the day, the visitors were in the driver's seat across the first two sessions. losing only Tom Latham for 71 when Naseem had sharply angled one into the left-hander at high pace to break a strong opening stand of 134-Latham and Conway's second successive century stand for the first wicket-in the 36th over. Naseem had conceded just six runs in that five-over spell when he bowled three maidens, even as Abrar kept leaking runs at the other end. Having gone for 26 in five overs before lunch, Abrar was taken for another 41 in his first six overs after the break, with Conway confidently driving and whipping the spinner each time he

erred in line or length.

#### **DIGAmanullah** Memorial KP Tennis Championship begins

News Desk

PESHAWAR: The 9th DIG Amanullah Memorial KP Tennis Championship got underway at the Synthetic Tennis Courts of the Qayyum Sports Complex Peshawar with Senior Vice President and known cardiac surgeon Dr. Farhat Abbas formally inaugurated.

Secretary KP Tennis Association Umar Ayaz Khalil, Pakistan No.1 Aqeel Khan, Tennis Coaches Shehryar Khan, Roman Gul, Nauman Khan, Zakirullah were present. In the Tennis Championship, boys U10, U14, U18, Men's single and doubles competitions will be held for which Rs. 200,000 cash prize has been allocated.

Pakistan Police, Pakistan Air Force, SNGPL and other players of the province are participating. In the opening day matches, Abdullah Khan of KP defeated Uzair Khan, seeded number 8, by 6-2, 6-3 in the Men singles. In the second match. Hussam Khan defeated Muaz Khan by 6-2 6-1. Hayat defeated Shaun Mehmood by 6-1 and 6-1. SNGPL's Sagib Hayat defeate KP's Gibran Ullah 6-2 and 6-2 to reach the

Speaking to the media on this occasion, Senior Vice President Prof. Dr. Farhat Abbas said that the entry of the players has been made subject to Form B so that there is no room for unfair means rather should follow merit only.

Pakistan's top-seeded players including Pakistan No. 1 Aqeel Khan, Pakistan No.2 Shoaib Khan and Pakistan No. 5 Yousaf Khalil, top national ranking player Barkatullah and Pakistan No.10 Saqib Umar, Hamza Roman, Hamid Israr, Muhammad Shayan, Faizan, Salar Khan and Ryan Umar are taking part.



## Jahangir Khan honours squash head coach Naveed Alam



KARACHI: Squash legend and former world champion Jahangir Khan has said that the role of qualified coaches in searching for new talent in squash and training for grooming players to international standards for international-level competitions is very important for regaining the golden age of squash in Pakistan.

World-class players can be prepared only by providing modern training of this game from the grass-root level to the young players for their shining into world-class heroes, he added. He was speaking at the ceremony held to award the shield

to Head Coach Naveed Alam at Roshan Khan Jahangir Khan Squash Complex here.

The manager of the complex, Lieutenant Commander Rahmatullah, was also present on the occasion.

Jahangir Khan said that representing Pakistan is the desire of every player and achieving it is a matter of great honour for every sportsperson to win laurels for the country and to attain this goal, the tireless work of his coach is very instrumental in this regard.

Lt Commander Rehmatullah, Manager of the complex, said that the way Naveed Alam, has been grooming the new talent of squash with zeal and providing training to them on modern lines, as well as providing awareness about the rules and regulations related to squash, technical issues and modern techniques of this game, makes one hopeful of good future of Pakistan squash when world-class players will be produced from this Complex who will represent Pakistan at international level in a successful manner.

He hoped that with this zeal, the coaches at this complex will produce more world-class players for Pakistan, he added.

It should be noted that Pakistan's current number one women's player in squash and the first Chief of Naval Staff National Squash Championship winner Zainab Khan, National Women Senior Champion Maryam Malik and Under-13-Junior and PSF Junior Champion Huzaifa Shahid had availed the services of Naveed Alam, who has groomed them into a talented young player.

He said that Jahangir Khan is a role model for squash players. "I have always had his patronage and guidance. We aim to promote the game of squash from the grass root level and to highlight new talent so that our country can develop squash at the international level to regain the lost glory in squash, Lt Commander Rehmatullah concluded.

## Two-day Golf match started at Garden City, Bahria Town



RAWALPINDI:-The real estate firebrand AAA Associates sponsored a two-day Golf match starting on 31st December 2022 and ending on 1st January 2023 at Garden City, Bahria Town Phase 7, Rawalpindi. It was an invitational golfing event that included prominent golfers from the armed forces background, civil administration, and distinguished social and political figures. Usman Iqbal the Director of Marketing, AAA Associates said 'The aim of this golf event is to promote the sport in the country. AAA Associates has sponsored many golf events for its promotion in the past many years.'

125 golfers participated in this match. Lt Gen Qazi Ikram (Retd), President of Pakistan Golf Federation graced the occasion as the Chief Guest. In total, 36 awards were distributed among the players. In the Senior Amateur category, the Gross prizes winner was Lt Col Aurangzeb, and in the Net prizes category, Lt Gen Qazi Ikram was the winner. In the second Senior Amateur category Brig Masood Qureshi was the Gross prizes winner, whereas, Maj Gen Anees Akbar was awarded the Net prize. Air Commodore Tahir Anwar took the Gross prizes among the Amateurs category, and Air Commodore Kashif Jamal won the Net prizes. The Amateur category had Maj Sajjad as the winner of the Gross prizes and Col Waseem as the winner of the Net prizes. Among the ladies' category, Mrs. Ami Qin won

AAA Associates is renowned for promoting sports such as boxing, football, and martial arts, and giving promotion to those

## Departments and Cricket Associations formally restored

**Sports Reporter** 

LAHORE: Mr Najam Sethi, the Chair of the PCB Management Committee, on Monday formally approved notifications for the restoration of Departments/Services Organisations, Regions and District/Zonal Cricket Associations

under the PCB Constitution 2014. The issuance of the notifications mean 16 Regional Cricket Associations will now participate in the Quaid-e-Azam Trophy and eight departments will compete in the Patron's Trophy during the 2023-24 season, beginning in August. In addition to these tournaments, Grade-II, 50-over and 20-over events will also be organised for the regional and departmental side during the 2023-24 domestic cricket season, details of which will be announced in

The Departments/Services Organisation, Regions and District/Zonal Cricket Associations were replaced by the six Cricket and 90 City Cricket Associations in the PCB Constitution 2019, which was we will provide them equal and fair repealed in December 2022.

"In pursuance of Ministry's notifications dated 22 December 2022 regarding repealing of Constitution of the Pakistan Cricket Board notified vide SRO 1045(1)/2019 dated 19 August 2019 and Ministry's notification dated 22 December 2022 regarding restoration of the PCB Constitution 2014, the Management Committee of the Pakistan Cricket Board hereby formally announces the restoration of all Departments/Service Organisations, Regions and District/ Zonal Cricket Association as recognised by the Board under the PCB Constitution 2014," the notification said, adding: "and further actions will be taken in due

Mr Najam Sethi: "I am pleased to confirm the formal restoration of Departments/Services Organisation, Regions and District/Zonal Cricket Associations

course."

under the PCB Constitution 2014. "It is our endeavor, resolve and commitment to all our cricketers that

opportunities to display their talent so that they can make their careers in the sport. This can only be achieved when we will expand our cricket canvas, which was unfortunately restricted and limited to a small number of cricketers and teams in 2019.

This approach not only affected the livelihood of hundreds of cricketers and resulted in a talent drain, but also failed to highlight and produce cricketers with exceptional skills as in the past that, in turn, adversely impacted the standards, performances and rankings of our national sides in the international arena.

"Although we cannot undo the wrong policies of the past four seasons, what we can do is to quickly revert to our tried, tested and winning cricket model and structure so that the sport and cricketers can excel and thrive. We are making good progress in this regard and more announcements that are in the best interest of Pakistan cricket and our cricketers will be made in due course."