#### PM message on the occasion of Right to Self-Determination Day

The fifth of January is annually observed as the Right to Self-Determination Day for the people of Jammu and Kashmir. On this day in 1949, the United Nations Commission for India and Pakistan (UNCIP) adopted a resolution that guarantees a free and fair plebiscite in Jammu and Kashmir, to enable the Kashmiri people to realize their right to self-determination. (Report on Page 8)

**INGOs collaboration imperative for building climate resilient Pakistan** 

Federal Minister for Climate Change Senator Sherry Rehmai

Simultaneously published from Islamabad, Lahore and Multan

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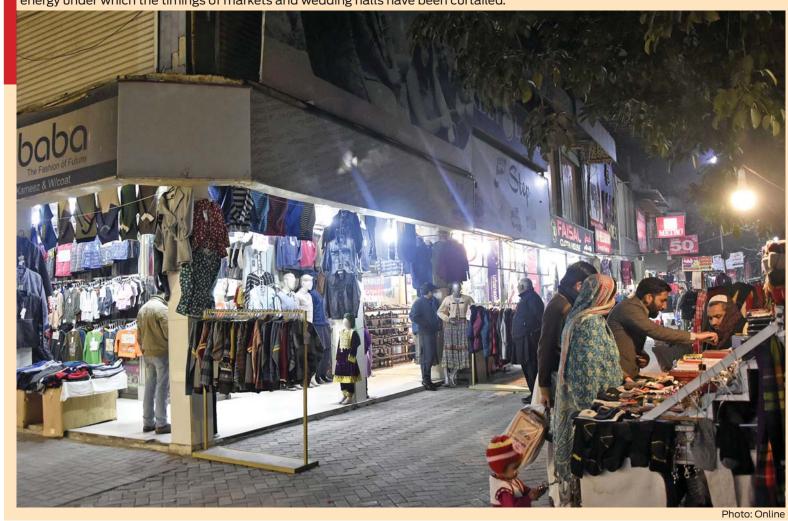




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#### **Violation**

ISLAMABAD: A view of open shops at Aabpara Market in Federal Capital, as the Defence Minister Khawaja Asif announced on Tuesday that the federal cabinet has approved the National Energy Efficiency and Conservation Plan a policy aimed at saving energy under which the timings of markets and wedding halls have been curtailed



## PM optimistic of civilised society's support at Geneva conference

Agencies

SOHBATPUR: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday expressed the hope that civilized societies would come forward to support the reconstruction and rehabilitation of flood-hit Pakistan at the International Conference on Climate Resilient Pakistan scheduled to be held in Geneva on January 9.

The prime minister, while addressing a public gathering here after the inauguration of reconstructed Government Boys Secondary School of Kili-Jia Khan, said he was constantly contacting the leadership of the friendly countries to invite them to the conference.

"Yesterday, I talked to Malaysian Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim ... He assured of sending a delegation to the conference. He will also join through Zoom," he said and mentioned his telephonic interactions with



and the United Arab Emirates billion among the flood-af-(UAE) for the purpose.

The prime minister said he would co-chair the moot with United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres.

However, he said, the government and the people of Pakistan would have to put in their efforts for rehabilitation.

The government, he added,

fected people through BISP (Benazir Income Support Programme), but more funds were still needed to pay compensation for one million houses destroyed by the flood

rehabilitation.

and many people were yet

ing, announced to develop the facility at par with the Danish Schools of Punjab. He had committed to inaugurate the upgraded school on March 23, to be equipped with information technology facilities, including e-library, solar energy and playgrounds.

He also announced the construction of 12 Danish Schools across Balochistan to provide equal educational facilities to the poor children of the

The prime minister highly applauded the performance of the government officers and provincial leadership for completing the school building within two months and also announced Tamgha-e-Khidmat award for three officers, including chief secretary and secre-

awaiting assistance for their tary of education. He said the coalition govern-The prime minister, who ment inherited a country with tion works, also interacted with

the newly built school build- skyrocketing oil prices and reduced wheat production.

He said the previous government had failed to purchase gas when it was the cheapest in the international market, compelling the incumbent government to spend \$27 billion for oil import to fulfill energy needs.

The prime minister, who also witnessed a students' match, said the vision behind the Danish School was to bring the children of the far-flung areas into the mainstream.

He told the students that education and skill training could only enable the country to cope with poverty and illiteracv. He said education was the only tool to put Pakistan on the course to progress and prosperity as well as bringing about a revolution.

The prime minister, who was given a briefing on the status of reconstruction and rehabilitathe leaders of Turkey, Qatar had already distributed Rs100 earlier unveiled the plaque of a breached IMF agreement, the flood-affected families.

### Marriyum seeks FIA action against culprits for character assassination of female actresses

**E** City Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Information and Broadcasting Marriyum Aurangzeb on Wednesday urged the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) to initiate legal action against those elements who were involved in the character assassination of female actresses on the social media networking sites.

The minister, in a news statement, strongly condemned the campaign against the female actresses. "The entire society must condemn those who are promoting the culture of such malicious campaigns aimed at character assassination and spreading insolence and inci-

Marriyum said the artists were not only assets of the country, but also its identity at the international level as they earned a status in society through their sheer hard work



many challenges.

She regretted that the character assassination of a woman got started whenever she achieved a sublime status either in journalism, politics, art or any other fields. The women became target of such smear campaigns just due to their gender.

"The mentally retarded people" only cared about the honour of their own mothers and sisters, but not of the others, she said. The way some persons abused others for a difference of opinion, launched vile attack son women and involved in disrespecting & harassing others' mothers and sisters, showed how they themselves had been and got stardom after facing brought up, she added.

### PTI's white paper misleading, devoid of context: Dar



Commerce Reporter

ISLAMABAD: The economic managers of the country here on Wednesday termed the Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf's (PTI) white paper on state of economy selective, misrepresented and devoid of economic context.

"The PTI's presentation \[
 \] white paper \[
 \] is selective and misrepresented, showing misleading economic indicators," Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar told a press conference.

He was flanked by Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Professor AhsanIqbal, Federal Minister for Energy Khurram-Dastgir Khan, Federal Minister for Economic Affairs SardarAyazSadiq, Federal Minister for Information and Broad-

casting Marriyam Aurangzeb, and Minister of State for Finance and Revenue Ayesha Ghaus Pasha.

The finance minister said the comparisons made in the white paper were incorrect and devoid of economic context. He said the economic situ-

ation since April 2022 was strongly influenced by the legacy that the new government got from the previous regime, hence what did the Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) led government received that should be a denominator for

comparison. This context", he said, was totally missing in the PTI's presentation while it had also ignored international economic situation, the commodities super-cycle, Russia-Ukraine war impacts and the catastrophic floods in the country.

#### Imran Khan attack: 7IT Starts finalizing interim challan in case

#### **Spokesman Report**

LAHORE: The Joint Investigation Team (JIT) has started preparing an interim challan in the former prime minister and PTI chairman Imran Khan attack case in Wazirabad, Punjab, ARY News reported on Wednesday, citing sources.

 $Sources\ privy\ to\ the$ development said the JIT has finalized a separate report over leaking Naveed, the main suspect in the attack, videos.

The report of leaking videos of the main suspect have been also made part of the interim challan. The report says when the JIT asked the policemen, why they leak the video of Naveed, they replied, 'On the orders of the senior.'

## Rana Sanaullah says 'approved funds for Arshad Sharif's JIT'

#### **Spokesman Report**

ISLAMABAD: Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah has announced that the federal government approved funds for the joint investigation team (JIT) on the martyr journalist Arshad Sharif's killing case.

Rana Sanaullah, while addressing a press conference today, announced that the government approved funds for the JIT on Arshad Sharif's killing case. "The team will visit Kenya and progress will be made on the probe."

He said that the Centre would all provinces besides establishing a federal-level cooperative structure of the force.

to bring the banned Tehrik-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) to the table and a ceasefire is the first condition to initiate talks. He said that Afghan-



istan and TTP are the reality and efforts are underway to bring the banned outfit to the table on the condition of the ceasefire.

He clarified that he is not saying that Pakistan wants to launch an attack in Afghanistan, Sanaullah provide assistance to the CTD in said that the Afghanistan government will be contacted by Pakistan to discuss the current situation.

The interior minister said that The interior minister confirmed the government had prepared the that the federal government is trying structure of the counter-terrorism department (CTD) and provided the facilities. The CTD had excellently performed in Punjab province.

"During the National Securi-

tv Committee (NSC) meeting, we agreed on zero tolerance for terrorism. The impression of red, black or white terrorists is wrong."

Sanaullah said that it was the Islamabad police's significant achievement to kill the terrorist at the check post which protected the federal capital from a disaster. Two CTD officials were martyred in the attack and two sustained injuries.

He added that Islamabad police gave a recruitment ad for 1,600 positions and thousands of citizens appeared in the test. The successful candidates will be part of the Islamabad police force.

The interior minister vowed that the government will implement the decisions taken in the NSC meeting in the coming days.

While talking to the media, IG Islamabad said that a media briefing was also conducted regarding the suicide attacker of the I-10 bomb

#### Arshad Sharif suo motu case

#### Spokesman Report



ISLAMA-BAD: The joint investigation team (JIT) on the

martyr jour-

nalist Arshad Sharif murder case will depart for Kenya on January 15, the investigators apprised the Supreme Court SC) conducting a suo motu hearing.

The JIT submitted the rogress report on the Arshad Sharif murder case to the Supreme Court (SC) conducting the suo motu hearing on the journalist's killing case. The report stated that the

special JIT members will depart for Kenya on January 15 to collect evidence and post-mortem report of Arshad Sharif. The post-mortem report will be submitted to the top court.

## Khalid Maqbool alleges pre-poll rigging in Karachi LG elections

#### 跨 Bureau Report

KARACHI: (Dunya News) Muttahida Qaumi Movement-Pakistan (MQM-P) convener Khalid Maqbool Siddigui on Wednesday raised concerns about the upcoming Karachi local government elections, saying pre-poll rigging was being done ahead of the

Addressing a press conference, Mr Maqboo, flanked by Jamaat-i-Islami city chief Hafiz Naeemur Rehman, said there was ambiguity in the voters list that had been made. adding that they were not satisfied over the delimitation issue. The vagueness in statistics proved that pre-poll rigging had already taken place, alleged

Mr Maqbool. While the JI city chief said that his party wanted to see Karachiities as mayor and councillors of their own city because the city



decades by the rulers. He added that the people of Pakistan did not have a a level playing-field, adding that the Local Government Act was introduced in 2013 but we are unable to hold elections vet. Earlier on Jan 2, Sindh

Governor Kamran Tessori urged the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) to fulfill its promise about delimitations for the sake of Karachi's future. Speaking to media persons, MQM-P's Kamran Tessori said the issue of missing persons was the biggest problem for the party and only solution to this issue was that they joined the previous government. He hoped that the incumbent government would not disappoint them.

### Debris throwing on a green belt

ISLAMABAD: A view of debris throwing on a green belt from of a constructed building in front of PIMS hospital, in Federal



## PM message on the occasion of Right to Self-Determination Day

**№** News Desk

ISLAMABAD: The fifth of tion is a cardinal principle of January is annually observed international law and upheld as the Right to Self-Determination Day for the people of Jammu and Kashmir. On this day in 1949, the United Nations Commission for India legal right of people to decide and Pakistan (UNCIP) adopt- their own destiny. It expressed a resolution that guaran- es unequivocal support for tees a free and fair plebiscite in the realization of the right to Jammu and Kashmir, to enable the Kashmiri people to realize under foreign occupation. Occupied Jammu and Kash-

The right to self-determinaby international human rights organizations. Every year, the UN General Assembly adopts a resolution that denotes the their right to self-determina- Regrettably, the oppressed mir(ÎIOJK) have not been able aimed at reminding the global



self-determination for peoples people of Indian Illegally

Not only has the Indian Government denied the inalienable right of self-determination to the Kashmiris, it has created an environment of fear in IIOJK, which has been exacerbated with India's illegal and unilateral actions of 5 August 2019. The people of IIOJK are being subjected to systematic and widespread

human rights abuses. Today's commemoration is

community of its responsibility towards the oppressed Kashmiri people. The United Nations must honor the commitments it had made 74 years ago and support the Kashmiris' struggle for self-determination.

Pakistan will continue to extend its unstinted moral, political and diplomatic support to the right of self-determination of the people of Jammu and Kashmir in accordance with the relevant UN

Security Council resolutions.

## INGOs collaboration imperative for building climate resilient Pakistan: Sherry Rehman

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Climate Change Senator Sherry Rehman said that collaboration of international organizations was imperative for building climate resilient Pakistan as the country was gearing up to support rehabilitation and recovery, amid funding constraints of 33 million affected population devastated by unprecedented floods of the

The Minister said this in a meeting with the delegation of country directors of International non-governmental organizations (INGOs) on the panel of Pakistan Humanitarian Forum (PHF) as part of consultations for the International Conference on Climate Resilient Pakistan, scheduled to be held in Generelease received here on Wednesday.

Talking with the delegation, Senator Rehman said, "This high-level Conference in Geneva aims to marshal inter- world's worst climate event in living

Gold price hits new

life-high of Rs188,600

per tola in Pakistan

KARACHI: Gold was

day too as it nailed yet

unstoppable on Wednes-

another life-high with its

safe-haven appeal grow-

ing stronger amid rupee

depreciation and a dollar

According to All-Pa-

dearth.



va on January 9, 2023, said a news national support for the people and Government of Pakistan to move forward on recovery as soon as possible after the country went through the

"The plan to rehabilitate, recover and rebuild with resilience is urgent, but we faced a huge funding gap even for first order recovery needs, given that we are servicing rehabilitation and relief for 33 million people. This is too large a number for any country to rehabilitate on our own," she added.

The minister underlined that the government's costing of \$16 billion for reconstruction of damaged infrastructure in a flood-resilient mode was not enough to cover full climate resilience, adding, "but we cannot wait, as another season of extreme weather could well hit us before we even begin rebuilding."

The federal minister commended the humanitarian relief efforts done by the INGOs in Pakistan, especially in the aftermath of the catastrophic floods that impacted 33 million people. The PHF member INGOs mobilised \$150 million for flood response.

The Ministry of Climate Change looks forward to working and collab-

orating with the INGOs on a sustained institutional basis. MOCC and INGOs need to collaborate on building awareness on climate resilience and adaptation at the grassroots level," Senator Sherry Rehman said.

The INGOs, she suggested that must embed climate resilience in their strategic outlook for the future, and use their reach and expertise on the ground to create deep civilian engagement that could lead to behavioral change at the local level towards climate change.

"The Ministry will conduct consultations with the INGOs on Pakistan's National Adaptation Plan, and we look forward to hearing the suggestions that the members will bring to the table," she highlighted.

The meeting was attended by the country directors of Pakistan Humanitarian Forum, ACTED, International Rescue Committee, Agha Khan Development Network, Mercy Corps, Muslim Aid, Muslim Hands, Welthungerhilfe (WHH) and Oxfam.

## PPP's CEC moot to discuss way out of political imbroglio

跨 Bureau Report

KARACHI: Amid political uncertainty emerged after the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf's (PTI) "final plan" announcement to dissolve Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Assemblies aimed to force ruling PDM to announce snap elections across the country, the Pakistan People's Party (PPP) chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari has called party's Central Executive Committee (CEC) meeting tomorrow (January 5).

ed dissolution of two provin-

cial assemblies will also take

center stage.

kistan Sarafa Gems and Jewellers Association (APSGJA), the price of The meeting of the party's top guns will be jointly presidgold soared by Rs900 per tola and Rs772 per 10 ed over by Former President Asif Ali Zardari and Bilawal grams to reach Rs188,600 and Rs161,694 respecin Karachi to discuss MQM-P demands on delimitations and tively Based on the difference local government elections in Karachi. While the expect-

in price compared to the Dubai market, Pakistani gold is pricier than the world markets.



"The party leadership had Nayyar Bokhari. planned this CEC meet-15th death anniversary of slain national issues. Prime Minister Benazir Bhut-

However, he clarified that

ing during the gathering of it would not be just a ceremoparty leaders in Garhi Khuda nial meeting, as this time they Bukhsh on the occasion of the would be discussing a host of

The PPP leader while termto," said PPP Secretary General ing the meeting "important" tunkhwa assembly.

said it would discuss crucial issues, including the next general elections and the current situation in the largest province in the wake of the PTI's announcement regarding the dissolution of Punjab and Khyber Pakh-

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

## DG ISI attends funeral prayers for martyred CTD officers





**№** News Desk

The funeral prayers of two Punjab Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) officers, who embraced martyrdom near Khanewal in a terror attack, were offered in Multan, Khanewal, and Lahore Wednesday.

According to the 24NewsHD TV channel, two officers of the CTD were shot dead by terrorists in the parking space of a hotel near Pirowal, Khanewal district on Tuesday.

Inter-Services Intelligence Director General Lt Gen Nadeem Anjum, Punjab Chief Minister Chaudhry Parvez Elahi, Lahore Corps Commander Lt Gen Salman Fayyaz Ghani, Punjab Inspector General of Police Aamir Zulfiqar, and other mili-



funeral prayers of Director Naveed Sadiq, recipient of Sitara-e-Shujaat, and Inspector Nasir Abbas in Lahore.

A large number of people representing all walks of life attended the tary and civil officials attended the funeral of the martyred.

## Govt to utilise all-out resources for modernising PAF: Khawaja Asif

Spokesman Report

would utilise all its resources to floods in the country. modernise Pakistan Air Force (PAF) for the impregnable defence of the country.

The minister called on Chief of the Air Staff, Air Chief Marshal Zaheer Ahmed Baber Sidhu, during his visit to Air Headquarters, a PAF news release said.

Khawaja Asif lauded the matchless professionalism of PAF and admired the revamping of training by PAF to produce well-equipped and skillful work force to cope up with ever-changing challenges of aerial defence and national security.

Moreover, matters pertaining to evolving geo-strategic environment and regional security situation were fits for Pakistan.

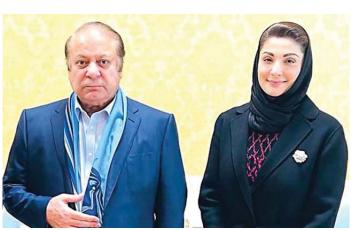
discussed during the meeting.

The minister also lauded the ISLAMABAD: Defence Minis- exceptional response of PAF during ter Khawaja Muhammad Asif on the rescue and rehabilitation of flood Wednesday said the government victims in the aftermath of recent

> Air Chief briefed the visiting dignitary about various ongoing projects being carried out by PAF with special focus on modernisation and development of indigenous capabilities.

He also briefed the defence minister about his vision of PAF's National Aerospace Science and Technology Park (NASTP) project and highlighted that the mega project was aimed at fostering collaborative research, development and innovation in the domains of aviation, space, Information Technology (IT), cyber and computing to ensure social, economic, technological and scientific bene-

### Nawaz Sharif, Maryam depart for Geneva



LONDON: Former prime minister had paid a visit to Europe from (PML-N) Quaid Nawaz Sharif, his was Sharif's first international trip daughter Maryam Nawaz and two more family members departed for Geneva - Switzerland from London, citing sources, ARY News reported on Wednesday.

Sources told ARY News that Nawaz Sharif and Maryam Nawaz will stay in Geneva for one week where he will also meet his doctor. Two more family members are also accompanying Nawaz Sharif and Maryam on the Geneva tour.

Sharif is also expected to hold 'some private meetings' in Geneva, sources added.

In November, the PML-N supremo along with other family members a regular passport earlier.

and Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz London from November 21 to 30. It after three years of stay in London.

It is pertinent to mention here that the federal government on November 10 issued a diplomatic passport to former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif. The passport was issued after clearance from the Foreign Ministry, sources said.

The passport had been sent to PML-N supremo via Passport and Immigration office.

The then Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) government had suspended the PML-N leader's passport after he was declared an absconder by the court. The PML-N leader was issued

## Setback for MQM-P as Sindh govt removes administrators on ECP orders

KARACHI: The Muttahida Qaumi Movement-Pakistan (MQM-P) has suffered a setback as the Sindh government has removed administrators of Hyderabad and Karachi's East and Korangi districts on orders from Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP), ARY News reported on Wednesday.

According to details, the Sindh government has removed the administrators of Hyderabad and Karachi's East and Korangi districts recommend-

Below the poverty



ed by Muttahida Qaumi Movement-Pakistan (MQM-P).

The provincial government reverse the appointment of Muhammad Farooque, Syed Shakeel Ahmed and MuhamHyderabad Municipal Corporation and district municipal corporations of Korangi and East districts, respectively.

The ECP, in a letter to local government secretary, said it had imposed a ban on transfer/posting during the conduct of local government (LG) elec-

Before their appointment, Farooque and Ahmed had been working as administrators of Worker Model School, SITE Hyderabad, and Korangi, respectively. Sharif had earlier been

mad Sharif as the administrators of working as director-charged parking at the DMC-Central.

> LG polls likely to be postponed There are still speculations with regard to postponement of the local government polls in the metropolis for the seventh time as the Sindh government has written another letter to the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) recently.

The Muttahida Qaumi Movement Pakistan (MQM-P) had already written a letter to the ECP for amending delimitation for the LG polls.

#### DPO visited remote area Azam Warsak police station Mazir

WANA: According to the details, District Police Officer South Waziristan Shabir Hussain Shah visited Azam Warsak Police Station, a remote area of Tehsil Birmal,

the DPO mingled with the policemen and congratulated and encouraged them for doing their best duty even under difficult circumstances



SHO Alamgir Mehsud gave a detailed briefing on the security situ-

the DPO made a detailed review of the security of the police station and immediately issued instructions to provide the best facilities. The DPO gave clear instructions and said that drug dealers and

robbers will not be accepted under any circumstances, The responsibility of protecting the future of the new generation and the lives and property of the people is on our shoulders no negli-

gence and negligence will be tolerated in this regard. Giving further instructions, the DPO said to treat the people politely, help them in every possible way and meet the dignitaries of the area under community policing.

He should try to solve their problems without the cooperation of the people, success against the criminal elements is not possible, let the people realize that the police are there to protect them.

Later, the DPO distributed cash prizes to the officials for performing their best duties and congratulated Alarming shortfalls taking Industries toward Collapse.

## Women entrepreneurship way forward: Narisa Dharani

Commerce Reporter

KARACHI: Ms. Narisa Dharani along with her young females gave a lecture on Women entrepreneurship and the way forward Meeting Organized by Mehran Commercial Enterprises(MCE) with the support of Electro Polymers.



Narisa Dharani said "Women's entrepreneurship helps reduce poverty, promote gender equality and empower women. But it has another impact - providing women with the means to improve the health of their families and finance the education of their children".

The purposed of meeting how learning business knowledge and skills not only creates jobs, but also extends empowerment to the future, promotes decent work and the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals.

Ms. Dharani is an inspirational woman with great achievements. Meeting her was highly motivational for youth.

She said "we highly appreciate spending the time with valuable youth. These women can be a real inspiration and role model for our youth".

## PPP believes to serve the people: Tasneem Ahmed Qureshi



tion, Tasneem Ahmed Qureshi here on Wednesday said Pakistan People's Party (PPP) believes to serve the nation and the country. It always raised voice for the safety of the country and protection of the rights of the people.

He expressed these views while addressing to 95th birth anniversary of Shaheed Zulfikar Ali Bhutto at Shaheed Zulfikar Ali Bhutto Institute of Science and Technology.

The minister of State said Shaheed Zulfikar Ali Bhatto was the leader of the people, a great benefactor of Pakistan, a hero of the Islamic world and a world leader.

Other speakers and party leaders addressing on the occasion said that PPP was the only political party that raised voice for the poor and recalled its services, struggle, ideology and sacrifices for the people and the country.

They vowed to follow the mission of the party founders and step up work for the uplift of people.

Hyderabad: Gypsy peoples searching valuable items from garbage at a landfill site in Latifabad area (Sindh).



## The first meeting of FCCI Council of Textiles

跨 Mian Rashid Asghar.

FAISALABAD: Under the auspices of Faisalabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FCCI) the first meeting of FCCI Council of Textiles was held under the chairmanship of Chairman Kashif Zia, in which Dr. Khurram Tariq, Chairman Muhammad Ahmed of Textile Exporters Association, All Pakistan Bed Sheet, Arif Ehsan Malik of Sheets and Upholstery Manufacturers Association, Asghar Qadri of All Pakistan Textile Printing Mills Association, Imran Ghafoor of All Pakistan Textile Mills Association, Ejaz Ahmed Nagra and Abdullah Qadri of All Pakistan Cotton Power Looms Association also attended the meeting, it was getic voice to create uniformity in the collective demands of the Textile sector.

President Dr. Khurram Tariq said that the purpose of the Textile Counthis responsibility has been entrusted lem is that if the prices of electricity country arable.

sectors have their own separate associations while it is a difficult and difficult stage to take all the problems on the platform of the chamber. He said that the interests of one sector may clash with another sector and that is why the collective problems of textiles are not resolved at the government level under the guise of our mutual differences. He said that we are trying to resolve these differences locally so that the efforts made at the national level can be fruitful. Are expected to lose



الوان صنعت وتجارت فيصل آباد The Faisalabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry

considered to raise a strong and ener- up to one billion dollars per month. Commenting on the current situation, he said that the production of his own institutions has decreased by thirty percent. He said that most of the cil is to create harmony and unity in industrial establishments are running

to Kashif Zia. He said that different and gas increase further, then what

Dr. Khurram Tariq said that he has clearly stated many times before that the government is not giving any subsidy to the textile sector. FESCO is getting electricity for eight cents, which they are selling for nine cents, while we are also bearing the burden of electricity theft in other provinces. Must be accelerated. Senior Vice President Dr. Sajjad Arshad said that there is also a possibility of applying flood duty on imports. Chairman of All Pakistan Textile and Printing Mills Association Asghar Qadri demanded to bring the general sales tax rate to single digit and said that due to the incompleteness of China, their members will have to pay 17% GST and 3% Further Tax. Having to pay, he said that many textile printing establishments are closed while the rest are running at 50% capacity. He also suggested the establishment of an Air cargo terminal and new canals to the various sectors of the sector and at 60-70% capacity, but the real prob-make the idle and barren lands of the

## Hamdard Pakistan started a campaign to distribute blankets and free medical camps

**Spokesman Report** 

KARACHI: In order to provide relief and to protect deprived communities of society from the cold, Hamdard Pakistan Foundation (HFP), led by Ms. Sadia Rashid - President Hamdard Group - has initiated a nationwide blanket distribution campaign and free medical camps from January 1st, 2023, supervised by Director HFP Syed Muhammad Arsalan. The first phase of HFP's annual blanket distribution campaign was successfully concluded on Wednesday. During the second phase, the scope of the humanitarian services will be expanded to other parts of the country.

During the first phase of the campaign, more than a thousand blan-villages of Umerkot, Mithi, Khokhara-the camps. The medical team of HFP kets were distributed among desperate and needy families living in far-flung areas of Sindh. Moreover, the medical teams of HFP set up free health checkups and medicine distribution camps to provide much-needed healthcare services in Tharparker, the surrounding five thousand patients benefitted from



other areas of rural Sindh.

In the medical camps, the experienced and professional medical team conducted health checkups of locals and provided medicines to the patients. More than

par, Bhairani and Khapro among many also advised communities to follow the necessary tips to prevent diseases. HFP's drive was well received by

locals, patients, and the local administration. They praised the initiative and prayed for the success of Hamdard

#### Dr.Junaid Zaidi visited University of Sargodha



跨 Mian Rashid Asghar

SARGODHA/ FAISALABAD: The global pandemic (COVID-19) has had a significant impact and it has dramatically changed the ways to live, learn and work. We must use Covid's lessons rather than going back to the pre-pandemic state if we want to increase student-teacher engagement in learning. This was the crux of a special lecture delivered by Dr. Syed Muhammad Junaid Zaidi (H.I., S.I.) the founder Rector COMSATS University Islamabad.

The Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Qaisar Abbas welcomed the distinguished guest and thanked him for gracing the University. Moreover, he spoke about the university's ongoing academic and research endeavors as well as his long-term objectives for enhancing the university's reputation.

The event was organized by the Office of Research Innovation and Commercialization (ORIC), University of Sargodha on Tuesday to discuss the current status of higher education quality in Pakistan and the post-COVID classroom.

Addressing the seminar, Dr. Junaid Zaidi advised that in order to start fresh in this scenario, we should reorganize our classroom as our conventional teaching techniques were antiquated. It makes sense to want things to return to the way they were before Covid, but let's not be hasty in making drastic changes, he added.

Dr. Junaid Zaidi pointed out that our universities are known for their strong classroom teaching rather than contributing to add value in uplifting socio-economic status of Pakistan through productive impact factor research. The gap between academia and industry is widened in Pakistan as our research projects failed to address the concerns of the

## Iqra University organized Bilingual Inter-University **Debate competition** create opportunities for development

News Desk

Campus, organized an All Karachi Bilingual Inter-University Debate Competition. Students from Karachi's public and private sector universities participated in the competition. Former Senator Mr. Abdul Haseeb Khan graced the event with his presence as the Chief-Guest, Anchor Persons and Social Activists of the city, Mr. Owais Rabbani, Mr. Talha Alam, Mr. Abdul Rafi, Ms. Rukhsana Naaz, and Mr. Khawaja Saad, judged the competition.

During his address to the audience, Senator (r) Abdul Haseeb Khan said that the main purpose of education is to play a pivotal role in the development of society, and it is with this educational partnership that we can include our country in the category of developed countries. He strongly advised the students to equip themselves with the latest technological advancements in every field to prepare themselves for a bright-

with their education, ability, morals, KARACHI: Iqra University, North and efforts. The judges and the audience wholeheartedly applauded and enjoyed the lively and passionate debates delivered by the contestants. Mr. Kamran of Jamia Suffah

secured 1st position in Urdu debates, whereas Ms. Kashaf of Karachi University was the winner among English debaters. The runner-ups were Mr. Abdul Rehman from Karachi University, and Ms. Khola from Igra University in Urdu and English debates, respectively. Mr. Imad Iqbal and Mr. Muhammad Farhan of Jamia Suffah secured the third position. The ceremony ended with the distribution of commemorative shields presented to the Chief-Guest, Guests, and presents to the winners of the competition by the Dean of the Faculty of Health Sciences, Iqra University, Prof. Dr. Muhammad Masroor, and HOD Pharmacy, Dr. Muhammad Imran. Many faculty members and students came to support their teams and thorougher future. He opinionated that men ly enjoyed the debate competition.





SERVI	CES
Namaz Ti	imings
Fajr	5:44 am
Zohr	12:12 pm
Asr	3:34 pm
Maghrib	5:12 pm
Isha	6:41 pm

#### **EMERGENCY**

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**

Statio	113
Islamabad	9222590
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CAA	9281092
CMH	5611111
MH	561116

#### NIH confirms presence of new sub-variant of Coronavirus

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

ISLAMABAD: The National Institute of Health (NIH) has confirmed presence of the Covid-19's new sub-variant in the country.

A sub-variant of Omicron variant of the corona virus, XBB, has been present in the country for last three months, NIH said in a statement.

The National Command and Operation Center (NCOC) monitoring the corona virus situation in the country, NIH stated.

Member Sindh Corona Taskforce Dr Faisal Mahmood yesterday urged masses to wear facemasks and avoid public gatherings after detection of new variant of Covid-19 in Karachi.

While confirming the detection of cases of new Covid variant in Karachi, Dr Faisal Mahmood said that the number of Covid patients infected with the ew variant coming to hospitals is low.

## The arrested terrorists belonged to a banned militant outfit

#### B City Reporter

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad police in association with intelligence agencies on Wednesday busted a network of suicide bombers and arrested more than 10 terrorists who were planning suicide attacks.

Sources told Dunya News the arrested terrorists belonged to a banned militant outfit and that their network stretched across the country.

Sources further said the arrests followed investigation into a suicide blast in the federal capital few days ago.

On Dec 23, 2022, a policeman was terrorists aimed at hiting some "high-value martyred and two suspected terrorists were killed in a suicide blast in the I-10 sector of the federal capital on Friday, confirmed Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah.

The minister, in a statement, said a man and a woman were in a vehicle which entered Islamabad from Rawalpindi on Friday morning. A team of the Eagle Squad stopped it for snap checking when the two suspects blew up the car which was laden with explosive material. He said the for checking when it exploded. He said



targets" in the capital city.

Mr Sanaullah said six people, including four policemen, were injured in the incident, adding that the injured personnel were out of danger and being treated at the Pakistan Institute of Medical Scienc-

Earlier, DIG Operations Sohail Zafar Chattah told media that personnel of the Eagle Squad stopped a suspected cab

a policeman, identified as Adil Hussain, and six people, including four cops, were injured in the incident. He said the timely action by police had saved the capital city from a major incident.

Rescues officials shifted the injured policemen to the PIMS where a state of emergency had been declared.

Following the blast, security has been beefed up in Islamabad and Rawalpindi while checking at exit and entry points of the cities also has been made stricter.

#### Cholistan Desert Rallv

ISLAMABAD: Managing Director of Tourism Department, Government of the Punjab(TDCP) Aftab-ur-Rehman Rana posing for a group photograph along with participants during 18th Internation-



Photo: Online

## ISSI bids farewell to ambassador Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry

#### **Spokesman Report**

ISLAMABAD: In a specially-hosted event, the Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) bid a fond farewell to Ambassador Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry upon completion of his term as the Director-General.

Ambassador Aizaz Chaudhry joined the ISSI in June 2018, following his retirement from the Foreign Service of Pakistan after having served as Ambassador to the United States and earlier as Foreign Secretary.

undertook extensive reforms, upgraded the infrastructure, and established four centers of excellence. Ambassador Chaudhry launched several new initiatives and strengthened the policy

Talat Shabbir, Director (Admin)/



CPSC, Malik Qasim Mustafa, Direc-During his tenure, the Institute tor (ACDC), Ms. Amina Khan, Director (CAMEA), Dr. Arshad Ali, Director (ISC), Dr. Neelum Nigar, Director (CSP), and several other Research Fellows/Research Associates shared their rich work experiences with Ambassador Chaudhry and highlighted Speaking on the occasion, Dr. the progress achieved in research and dialogue under his stewardship.

Chairman ISSI's Board of Governors Ambassador Khalid Mahmood lauded the transformative contribution of Ambassador Aizaz Chaudhry in enhancing the quality of the Institute's research activities as well as enlarging its outreach and policy input role.

Former Foreign Secretary and the new Director General of ISSI, Ambassador Sohail Mahmood, lauded Ambassa-

dor Aizaz Chaudhry's dedicated efforts that had led to the Institute's enhanced profile and trajectory and vowed that this work would be carried forward and further expanded through collective efforts. While wishing Ambassador Aizaz Chaudhry the best in his future endeavours, Ambassador Sohail Mahmood expressed the hope that the Institute would continue to benefit from his support and wise guidance.

In his valedictory address, Ambassador Aizaz Chaudhry spoke fondly about his tenure as the DG ISSI. He said hard working research faculty and administration staff were a source of strength for the Institute. He added that the Institute was set to scale new heights in both its research work and outreach efforts.

The event concluded with the presentation of a special souvenir to Ambassador Aizaz Chaudhry by Chairman Ambassador Khalid Mahmood.

## Strengthening trade ties, Indonesian Envoy visits RCCI

#### **Spokesman Report**

RAWALPINDI: Indonesian Ambassador to Pakistan Adam Tugio during his visit to the Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI) urged Pakistani businessmen should take advantage of Indonesia's emerging market. Adam Tugio said that Indonesia seeks to increase bilateral trade with Pakistan and strengthen trade and business relations. He said that Indonesia could provide Pakistan with opportunities for trade and economic activities in the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEANs) market with a population of 623 million, which would enhance the growth of trade between the two countries. He said that Pakistan and Indonesia already have a preliminary agreement on the Preferential Trade Agreement (PTA),



various sectors. Pakistan has a lot of potential in traditional herbal medicines, he added. He pointed out that which has boosted bilateral trade in herbal medicines are receiving a very

positive response from the world population. The Ambassador said that the Embassy would participate in the Food Festivals and Exhibitions organized by

the Chamber.

RCCI President Saqib Rafiq briefed the Ambassador about the ongoing activities of the Rawalpindi Chamber. He said that there is a need to enhance links between the two countries at the chamber level and between the private sectors to increase the trade volume. Saqib Rafiq expressed hope that He said that after signing of the Free Trade Agreement (FTA), bilateral trade and economic activities between both of the countries will be increased. He highlighted key areas including IT, Tourism, Pharmaceutical, education and culture where bilateral cooperation can be increased through cham-

Senior Vice President Muhammad Hamza Sarosh, Vice President Faisal Shahzad, Former Presidents, executive members and members were also present on the occasion.



Islamabad: Karim Aziz Malik presenting the bouquet of flowers to Acting President of ICCI Mr. Faad Waheed at ICCI office.

#### Agro traders urge CDA to cancel construction of slaughterhouse in I-11/4



**Commerce Reporter** 

ISLAMABAD: Agro Trade Promotion Committee of Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) during its meeting at Chamber House has expressed serious concerns over the CDA plan to construct a slaughterhouse in I-11/4, Islamabad at an area of over 5-acre land as the fruit and vegetable businesses need a hygienic environment while the existence of an abattoir near Sabzi Mandi would create unhygienic conditions and would have a negative impact on the health of fruit and vegetable consumers as well. Therefore, they strongly opposed this move and called upon the CDA to cancel this project immediately in the larger interest of the citizens.

Addressing the meeting, Faad Waheed, Acting President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry said that fruits and vegetables businesses need a neat and clean environment, but the construction of a slaughterhouse in the vicinity of Sabzi Mandi in Islamabad would be against the interest of these businesses as it would create smell in the area and affect the environment.

Engr. Muhammad Azhar ul Islam Zafar, Vice President ICCI said that according to the SOP of Food and Agriculture Organization of UN, the slaughterhouse should be away from residential areas and emphasized that CDA should follow the international practice for setting up this facility away from the city.

Tahir Ayub, Convener, Agro Trade Promotion Committee of ICCI said that the I-11/4 sector is already facing the issue of water shortage while an abundant supply of potable water and adequate facilities for treatment and disposal are required for a slaughterhouse, which is not possible in the said area

Babu Muhammad Aleem, Ch. Muhammad Arshad, Arsalan Jawaid, Ch. Safeer Hussain, Rizwan Farooq, Shakeel Ahmed, Imtiaz Ahmed, Abdullah Chaudhry, Muhammad Shabbir, Sheikh Salman and Muhammad Sohail Chaudhry and other members of Committee also strongly opposed the construction of slaughterhouse near  $\,$ Sabzi Mandi and urged that CDA should cancel this project forthwith.

#### COMSTECH Lauds VC NSU Services



#### Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The Coordinator-General of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation Standing Committee on Scientific and Technological Cooperation (COMSTECH), Prof. Dr. M. Iqbal Choudhary, praised the services of Vice Chancellor National Skills University Islamabad (NSU) during the COVID-19 pandemic and popularizing skills education across the country. According to him, the word Skill has become a synonym for the NSU and its leadership. Notably, people across the country will remember the services of Prof. Mukhtar during COVID-19. He participated in more than 300 TV, radio, and general programs to apprise the public regarding preventive measures for viral infections. Worth mentioning here is that the US Government recognized Prof. Mukhtar's services for viral research with a unique outstanding scientist's visa award.

Prof. Iqbal Choudhary also gave a prestigious COMSTECH shield of appreciation to Prof. Muhammad Mukhtar, and both agreed that National Skills University Islamabad will serve as training partners for students from the OIC countries. Skills training will be through the digital platform and hands-on teaching-learning methodologies. Prof. Dr. Mukhtar thanked the COMSTECH Coordinator General for support towards popularizing technological education in Pakistan and across the Muslim world, particularly the COMSTECH members nations.

#### AIOU promotes Islamic Values; Prof. Dr. Nasir Mehmood

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

ISLAMABAD: Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU) in its press release issued yesterday has clarified that University promotes Islamic teachings and Pakistanis' social values through its books and other teachings materials.

Prof. Dr. Nasir Mehmood, Vice-Chancellor AIOU in his briefing to the Standing Committee on Federal Education, Professional Training of the National Assembly said that AIOU has a comprehensive mechanism of courses and books development. He was clarifying AIOU position before the Committee on printing of a book that allegedly contain Islamophobic content. He informed the Committee that the said book"Aina E Imraniyat" has nothing to do with AIOU. This book is published by a private publisher keeping in view the syllabus of Board of Intermediate and Secondary Education, Punjab, Azad Kashmir and Federal Board Islamabad. Further, Allama Iqbal Open  $University\ prepare\ syllabus\ for\ its\ students\ through\ a\ comprehensive$ system that ensure the proof reading and content quality of the written material before publishing.

Group Chairman/Chief Editor: Almas Ayoub Sabir Vice Chairman: Managing Editor:

Asim Nazir Ahmad Naveed Ahmad Khan Head Editorial Advisory Board: Amjad Mehmood Bureau Chief Karachi: Saleem Zaman Khan. (mszk786@gmail.com Bureau Chief Lahore: Syed Afraz Ali Nazish (afrazalishah@gmail.com)

Islamabad Office: Rose Plaza, I-8 Markaz.

Karachi office: Flat No.C.3.A.One Comfort, Block No 11. Gulshan-e-Igbal, Main Rashid Minhas Road.

Lahore Office: 7-E, Samanberg, Johar Town. spokesmanislamabad@gmail.com Email:

Whatsapp: 0346-5008408

#### Investment under CPEC to reach \$62 bn by 2030

The total planned investment under China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is \$62 billion between FY2015 and FY2030, out of which \$27.4 billion projects have been realized, with energy sector (power generation, coal mining and transmission lines) representing 76%.

It covers power generation projects (both fossil fuel and renewables) of about 11 GW. To-date, about 5,520 MW energy projects has been completed. More than half of these projects are coal-based power plants, according to an annual report on renewable energy released by Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI).

The report says the completed projects under the corridor include 1320 MW Sahiwal Coal-fired Power Plant, 1320MW Coal-fired Power Plant at Port Qasim, Karachi, 1320MW China Hub Coal Power Project, Hub, Balochistan, 660 MW Engro Thar Coal Power Project, 1000 MW Quaid-e-Azam Solar Park, Bahawalpur, 50 MW Hydro China Dawood Wind Farm, Gharo, 100 MW UEP Wind Farm, Jhimpir, Thatta, 50 MW Sachal Wind Farm, Jhimpir, Thatta, 100 MW Three Gorges Second and Third Wind Power Project, Matiari to Lahore ±660 KV HVDC Transmission Line Project, and 720 MW Karot Hydropower Project, AJK/Punjab.

The projects that are under construction include 1320 SSRL Thar Coal Block-I (2×660MW), 330MW HUB-CO Thar Coal Power Project, 330MW HUBCO ThalNova Thar Coal Power Project, 884MW Suki Kinari Hydropower Project, KP, and 300 MW Coal-Fired Power Project, Gwadar.

Similarly the CPEC projects that are under consideration include 1124 MW Kohala Hydropower Project, AJK, 700.7MW Azad Pattan Hydropower Project, AJK/ Punjab, 1320 MW Thar Mine Mouth Oracle Power Plant, 50 MW Cacho Wind Power Project, and 50 MW Western Energy (Pvt.) Ltd. Wind Power Project.

The report said that Pakistan has committed in NDC 2021 that no new coal plant will be financed. Balance of Payment (BoP) crisis, along with high circular debt and surplus capacity have already scaled back future CPEC investment, as indicated by the shelving of the 1,320 MW Rahim Yar Khan coal power project in 2019.

In November 2020, Pakistan announced suspending coal-based power projects under planning and initial construction stages as part of Pakistan's climate action efforts and formalized this under the country's revised 2012 NDCs.

The decision was a follow-up to a report from an independent nine-member committee set up in 2019-20 to review the independent power project contracts, including CPEC contracts, which offered higher returns compared with global standards, the report added.

## India's Muslim heritage under threat as Hindu zealots eye Taj Mahal's claim after Babri mosque



ursuing the agenda of Babri mosque's demolition 30 years ago, the Hindu zealots continue to make false claims about the historic sites, most recently the magnificent Taj Mahal, for its alleged origins to an early Hindu rule.

A recent writ petition filed by a leader of Narendra Modi's ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) sought a fact-finding committee to "study the real history" of the Taj Mahal with an aim to declare the UNESCO heritage site Taj Mahal as originally a Hindu temple.

Rajneesh Singh, head of

ic evidence" to prove that the Mughal emperor Shah Jahan built the Taj Mahal.

Though the attempt was foiled by the Indian court, the BJP leaders over the years have been repeating and amplifying unhistorical claims that the Taj is in fact a Hindu temple, which was built much before the reign of Mughal emperor Shah Jahan.

The Hindutva driven RSS is peddling the narrative all across India against historical monuments built by Muslim rulers.

Under the BJP rule, the rightwing Hindus of RSS is pursuing a campaign that involves changing the names of cities and claiming over 36,000 mosques acrossIndia through claims that they were built over a temple. The list of cities includes Aligarh, Deoband, Farrukhabad, Badaun, Sultanpur, Ferozabad and Shahjahanpur. The UP government has already changed the name of Faizabad to Ayodhya and Allahabad to Prayagraj.

Yogi Adityanath, a close aid the BJP's media relations in of Modi and the Chief Minis-Ayodhya, north India, in his peti- ter of UP is leading the effort

renaming the names of districts and localities with Muslim background.

In 2017, Vinay Katiyar, who was then a BJP Rajya Sabha member, claimed that the monument was in fact a Shiva temple named 'Tejo Mahalaya', which

Tensions sparked in 2021 when five women filed a petition and demanded access to pray inside the mosque.

was "originally" built by a Hindu

The recent Taj Mahal episode has refreshed the sad demolition of Babri mosque on December 6, 1992 as a black chapter in the annals of history.

The demolition led by L.K. Advani, President Ram Janambhumi Movement, was part of an effort to revive BJP and RSS who

Hindu god, Lord Ram, was born.

Shriraj Nair national spokesperson for the Hindu nationalist group Vishva Hindu Parishad (sub group of RSS) said that, ""I felt very proud when the mosque was demolished. From that time onward, the word 'Hindutva' or the feeling of being Hindu came into everybody's mind. It was a big success".

During the second term of Modi, all accused for the Babri Masjid demolition were acquitted by a special CBI court. Despite the fact that demolition was recorded in newspapers and on video, the court said evidence was not acceptable.

However, the Babri mosque is not the only one taken over under the Hindutva ideology.

About the 17th century Gyanvapi Mosque built by Mughal Emperor Aurangzeb in Vanarsi, the right wing Hindus claim that it was built over Vishweshwar temple.

Tensions sparked in 2021 when five women filed a petition and demanded access to

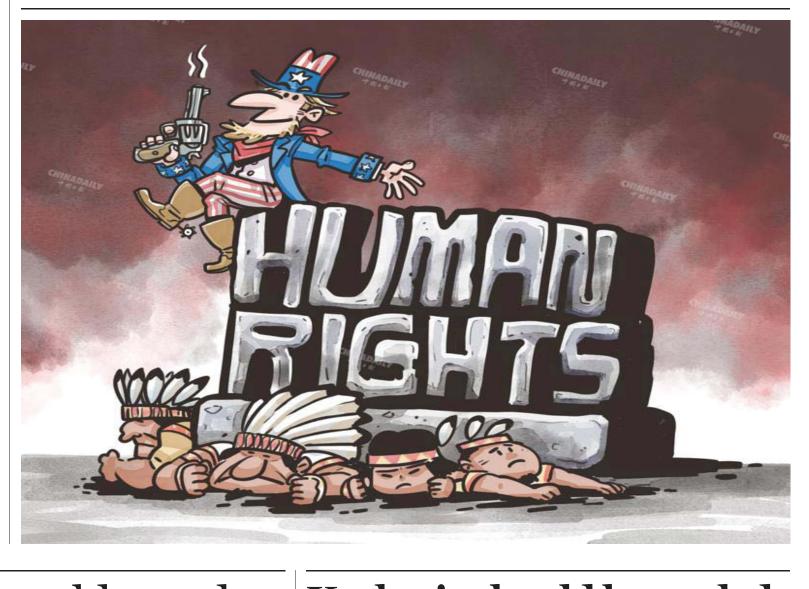
tion, said there was no "scientif- to eradicate Muslim identity by claimed that it was built on the pray inside the mosque. The exact spot in Ayodhya where single petition has now grown to 15 separate petitions, with many calling for the mosque to be torn down and a temple built in its place.

Keeping the precedence set in Babri Masjid in mind, it is highly likely that the courts under the Modi led government will give verdict in favor of the Hindus.

The Shahi Eidgah Masjid built by Mughal Emperor Aurangzeb in 1669 at Mathura, is also being claimed to have been built on Keshav Dev temple that was destroyed by the ruler during the Jat rebellion.

Right-wing Hindu groups have created a controversy over Jamia Masjid Shamsi by claiming that it was built by demolishing the temple of Neel Kanth Mahadeva.

Unfortunately, the global community has turned a blind eve towards the blatant human rights violations committed by Hindutva driven BJP government towards Muslims and other minorities in India, thus requiring a strong introspection at national and international levels.



## Events that had world on edge in 2022 – II

#### Abdullah Bin Shehzad

espite all restraining measures, the long march participants reached the capital and entered the Red Zone. They, however, were left march on May 26, giving the government a six-day ultimatum to dissolve the assemblies and announce an election.

#### **Devastating floods**

From mid-June and into October, Pakistan is hit by its worst floods in history, caused by a heavier than normal monsoon downfall, coupled with the melting of glaciers. The floods, which at one point are said to submerge as much a third of the country under water, leave more than 1,700 people dead and at least 2 million homeless.

The floods come on the heels of a scorching heatwave that scientists say can be linked to global climate change. Local deforestation also contributes to the vast destruction of the floods, which affects 33 million people in total, and leaves farm fields devastated and hundreds of thousands of livestock dead.

Government officials estimate the reconstruction and economic costs of the disaster to account for as much as 10 percent of Pakistan's gross domestic product.

View more-Pakistan's stars that fade away

#### The death of Queen Elizabeth II

On Sept 8, Queen Elizabeth passes away of old age at Balmoral Castle in Scotland. At 96, and after 70 years on the throne, she is Britain's longest reigning monarch, and her attack left Khan injured in both his legs as death triggers the start of a 10-day national he sustained bullet wounds.

mourning period.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif also joined international leadership and royal family members at the State funeral of Queen Elizabeth II held at Westminster Abbey. The Brits pour into the streets to mourn

the death of their beloved queen, and on September 19, she is given a state funeral behind by Khan, who called off the long and is buried at the King George VI Memorial Chapel alongside her husband Philip after services in Westminster Abbey and the St George Chapel at Windsor Castle. Charles III, Elizabeth's eldest son and

the country's longest serving heir apparent, accedes the throne upon her death, at the age of 73. A coronation ceremony for Charles III and his wife Camilla is set to take place in Westminster Abbey on May 6, 2023. PTI long march 2.0

#### Pakistan saw almost a month-long political activity that kept the people glued to their TV screens as Khan announced a new long march in another bid to pressure the government for snap polls. The much-touted anti-government march on the capital

kicked off on October 28. Khan claimed that the march will continue until the date for elections is announced. However, following multiple changes in plans for reaching Islamabad, the PTI chairman once again took a U-turn, calling off the long march on Nov 27 and announcing that his party and allies would quit the assemblies.

Chaotic scenes broke out during PTI's long march on Nov 3 after gunshots were fired at Imran Khan in Wazirabad where his convoy stopped over on its way to Islamabad. The

Imran Khan survives assassination bid

#### Pakistan's hopes of reliving 1992 WC glory

The T20 World Cup 2022 was a nerve-wracking journey for Pakistani fans as they started the campaign with disappointing performances. At one point, the Men in Green were on the verge of being eliminated from the tournament in the group stage.

Despite some challenges, Pakistan was fortunate to advance to the semifinals and eventually the final of the T20 World Cup, giving fans hope for a repeat of their 1992 World Cup victory due to some similarities between the two events. The fans remained glued to their screens until the end, when England ultimately defeated Pakistan and denied them a Cinderella ending to the tournament

#### Change of army's command

General Asim Munir taking over the military's command after former army chief General (retd) Qamar Javed Bajwa hung boots on November 29 was one of the major news of the year.

The appointment of the new army chief involved months of anticipation as things were uncertain until Bajwa announced in October that he wouldn't take a further

Later, the deliberations to decide who would replace Bajwa remained a hot news

#### Argentina and Messi lift FIFA WC Trophy

Lionel Messi crowned his glittering career with victory in the World Cup on Dec 18 as Argentina beat France on penalties in a final for the ages, triumphing 4-2 after Kylian Mbappe's hat-trick ensured the game ended level following extra time.

Concluded

## Kashmir should be settled under UN resolutions

#### Spokesman Research

ll Parties Hurriyat Conference (APHC) have demanded the UN to fulfill its obligations regarding the settlement of the Kashmir dispute under its resolutions including the one passed on January 05, 1949.

Senior APHC leader, Ghulam Ahmad Gulzar, in a statement in Srinagar, said, January 05, 1949 resolution is clear proof that Kashmir is not India's internal matter or integral part but an internationally-recognized disputed territory. He deplored that despite the passing of over seven decades, the promise made with the Kashmiris remained unfulfilled.

"Many nations of the world were liberated and referendums under UN supervision were held in many places which include Kosovo, East Timor and Southern Sudan but the unfortunate people of Kashmir were forgotten again and again which shows the duplicity, hypocrisy and double standard of the international community," he said.

Gulzar said that big powers, who claim to believe in the supremacy of human rights, preferred commercial and material benefits and ignored humanity in Kashmir.

He said the hypocrisy of the world and Indian expansionist designs have caused unimaginable destruction in Kashmir and have made peace in South Asia hostage. He called upon the UN to implement its January 05 resolution and restore its damaged reputation.

Illegally detained senior APHC leader, Nayeem Ahmed Khan, in a message from New Delhi's infamous Tihar Jail urged the UN to make serious efforts to implement its January 5, 1949 resolution on Kashmir. He said India's denial to implement the historic resolution has pushed the region into a quagmire of uncertainty.

The APHC leader pointed out that India's intran-

sigence and policy of deceit and deception have been a stumbling block in the way of a peaceful settlement of the Kashmir dispute that hangs over for the last more than seven decades.

He said, it is high time that the UN Security Council must take effective cognizance of India's dilly-dallying tactics and impress upon it to ensure early implementation of the January 5, 1949 resolution that provides a comprehensive road map to resolve the Kashmir dispute peacefully.

Another incarcerated APHC leader, Abdul Samad Inqilabi, in his message sent from an Indian jail, maintained that Kashmiri people will not rest till they are given their right to self-determination promised to them by the UN through its several resolutions.

He said India must know that despite using all cruel tactics it will not succeed to subdue the Kashmiris' resolve for freedom and they will continue their struggle till complete success

The Jammu and Kashmir Pir Panjal Freedom Movement in a statement issued in Jammu said the UN's failure to implement its resolutions on Kashmir has resulted in the continued suffering of the Kashmiri people. It said the miseries of the people of IIOJK increased manifold since the abrogation of the special status of the territory by Narendra Modiled fascist Indian government on August 05, 2019.

Meanwhile, APHC-AJK leaders including Convener, Mahmood Ahmad Saghar, Sheikh Abdul Mateen, Muhammad Sultan Butt and Zahid Ashraf in their statements in Islamabad said the Kashmiris have rendered unprecedented sacrifices in their struggle for securing their right to self-de-

They said peace will continue to elude the region till the Kashmir dispute was resolved according to UN resolutions and the aspirations of the Kashmiri people. They urged the UN to fulfill its responsibilities towards the Kashmiris for restoring its own credibility.

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# Pakistan-China year of tourism to greatly boost tourism cooperation, says MD PTDC

ISLAMABAD: The decision to hold the Pakistan-China Year of Tourism Exchanges in 2023 will greatly help improving people-to-people contacts and especially promoting tourism cooperation, a Pakistani official said.

"China obviously is the country that produced the largest number of tourists for the rest of the world before the COVID-19 pandemic ... The recent policy of resuming outbound tourism for Chinese citizens in an orderly manner would help in restoring the confidence of the world in terms of the promotion of tourism while making a good contribution to the global economy," Managing Director of Pakistan Tourism Development Corporation (PTDC) Aftab ur Rehman Rana told Xinhua in a recent interview.

Pakistan and China have a long friendly relationship, and people would love to meet each other and experience Rana said, adding that Pakistan has adding that Pakistan is not just look-

ing at inviting Chinese tourists to Pakistan, but also looking at sending Pakistani tourists to China.

"Our tour operators have already started holding online meetings with their Chinese counterparts. Under the exchange programs, both countries are planning to help tour operators of both sides to meet personally so they can revive their contacts and design packages and products which could attract the right kind of tourists on both sides," the PTDC official said.

Highlighting Pakistan has a lot to offer for Chinese tourists, he said that the wild mountains, lush green meadows, exquisite valleys, beautiful tracks for trekking, sites for adventurous sports and a number of ancient archeological places and other attractions in the South Asian country are waiting to mesmerize the Chinese tourists.

"For Pakistan, the opening of Chinese tourism is a very positive sign," the countries of each other, he said, made a lot of preparation to welcome

The Pakistani government has been working on improving the availability of information on both sides as well as producing new literature on major tourist destinations in the Chinese language, so that the Chinese tourists know well about Pakistan, he said.

"Pakistan International Airlines has recently announced the restarting of flights between Islamabad and Beijing. If there's any travel expo taking place in China, we'll send our delegation there," Rana said.

Besides providing new prospects in Pakistan's tourism industry, the official said China has helped transformed the country's tourism by building road infrastructure under the framework of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

Launched in 2013, CPEC is a corridor linking Pakistan's Gwadar Port with Kashgar in northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, which highlights energy, transport and industrial cooperation.

We have seen the new motorways,



highways and side roads all the way from south to east to north, and the improvement of the road network is very important for tourism promotion. CPEC has not only improved the access to different business hubs and various cities in Pakistan, but also facilitated the

access to various tourist sites," he said. With improved accessibility, there will be quite a lot of new developments

including the establishment of tourism zones, new hotels and tourist resorts along the CPEC routes in the coming

Rana believed that CPEC would help further improve the local tourism sector and help attract more investment into the tourism infrastructure of Pakistan, accelerating the country's development.

As the year 2023 is being designated as the Pakistan-China Year of Tourism Exchanges, Rana said numerous tourism-related activities will be happening between the two neighbors during the New Year.

"We will hold a Gandhara Buddhist heritage exhibition in Beijing very soon. There is a plan to send our cultural delegations of youth and tourism professionals to China and obviously, we welcome delegations from China also coming to Pakistan in promoting Chinese culture in Pakistan and vice versa," he said, adding that the PTDC will coordinate with other departments to strengthen cultural and tourism exchanges and promote people-to-people contacts between the two countries.

"The year 2023 is going to be a good beginning," Rana added. (Xinhua)

## UK Parliament should play its role for resolving the Kashmir issue: President AJK

跨 Abdul Majeed Tahir

ISLAMABAD: President Azad Jammu and Kashmir Barrister Sultan Mahmood Chaudhry have said that the British Parliament should play its due role to resolve the Kashmir issue and stop the ongoing violation of human rights in Occupied Kashmir.

He expressed these views

in a detailed meeting with Kashmiri-origin British House of Lords member Lord Qurban Hussain and British Parliamentarian Imran Hussain here on Wednesday. Speaking on the occasion the president while referring to the highly volatile situation in the region



"Both Pakistan and India miri origin can play an said that the international the two can be a precursor to ful solution of the Kashmir community should play its a big war which can endandispute. due role to avert confrontager the peace of the whole tion between the two nucle- world", he said, adding that miri diaspora community

are nuclear powers and any important role in sensitizing misunderstanding between the world about the peace-

He said that the Kash-Parliamentarians of Kash- in Britain can play a vital

role to promote Kashmir cause effectively at interna-

On this occasion, Lord Hussain and Imran Hussain invited the AJK President to visit the UK and address the **British Parliament** 

#### Deadly Ukraine strike reveals Russian tech weakness



Web Desk

PARIS: Russia has blamed the deaths of scores of its soldiers in a New Year missile strike on its troops using unsecured, traceable mobile phones on the battlefield.

But if Ukrainian forces did use geolocation of phones to target its strikes, it also reveals the Russian army's operational carelessness in the field, say analysts.

"It is already obvious that the main reason for what has happened was the turning on and massive use by personnel of mobile phones within reach of enemy weapons," said Russian Lieutenant General Sergei Sevryukov.

Critics have accused the army of trying to shift the blame. If his claim turned out to be true however, the attack would be only the latest example of the crucial role geolocation can play in warfare.

In 1996, Russian air-to-surface missiles killed the separatist Chechen president Dzhokĥar Dudayev after pinpointing his location thanks to the satellite phone he was using.

In January 2018, the US army discovered that data from fitness app Strava Labs allowed location of its troops in their bases in Afghanistan, Iraq and Syria. No lives were lost because of that vulnerability.

'Rarely worth the risk'

The Makiivka deaths serve as a reminder that "cell phone use on the battlefield is extremely dangerous and rarely worth the risk", said Joseph Shelzi, Research Associate at The Soufan Center in New York.

This is particularly true in Ukraine, where the government "has a high level of visibility of what occurs on its domestic telecommunications network", he said.

"Ukraine's military has proven to be highly adept at fusing pieces of information together to target Russian forces," Shelzi added.



CANBERRA: Speaker National Assembly Raja Pervez Ashraf attending the inaugural session of 26th Conference of Speakers and presiding officers of the Commonwealth (CSPOC).

## Chairman APCOYF Shujaat Ali dismisses vice-chairperson

**№** News Desk

LAHORE: Chairman All Pakistan Chinese Overseas Youth Federation Shujaat Ali announced the dismissal of the former vice-chairperson Miss Hu Bin after clear evidence of irregularities came to light, saying that all members of the federation are bound to carry out their duties honestly and well. There is no place in the federation for any person who shows bad faith with the federation and affects the reputation of Pakistan and China friendship. In the light of the inquiry report, the former vice-chairperson Miss Hu Bin was found guilty. Therefore, the Federation not only dismisses her from her post, but also declares her detachment from all her activities.

It is with great regret that Miss Hu Bin was selected as the Chairperon of the All Pakistan Chinese Overseas Youth Federation in 2020 who remain associated with the institution till 2022, Meanwhile, the disciplinary committee of the Organization started receiving several complaints about the Vice-Chairperson. In which it was stated that Miss Hoban was involved in various fraudulent activities, When the inquiry committee was constituted to find out the facts, who stated in his final report that the allegations leveled against Vice-Chairperson Hu bin were true. Therefore, all the esteemed members of the Federation decided to remove the Vice-Chairperson Hu Bin from her position in the light of the inquiry committee's decision. The organization announces to sever all ties with her, and informs that the federation will not be held responsible for any future fraud or any negative activity of Miss Hu bin.

## Dozens of Christian graves vandalised in Jerusalem

JERUSALEM: A Jerusalem bishop said Wednesday he was "dismayed" by the desecration of dozens of Christian graves on the edge of the Old City, as police probed the vandalism.

Stone graves lay in pieces with crosses toppled at the Protestant cemetery on Mount Zion, where Christians believe Jesus's Last Supper took place. "We discovered that more than 30 tombstones and crosses were smashed to pieces," Hosam Naoum, an Anglican bishop, told journalists at the cemetery.

Church authorities said the damage was discovered on Tuesday, while security camera footage from January 1 showed two men or boys vandalising the site while wearing Jewish attire.

"These criminal acts were motivated by religious bigotry and hatred against Christians," the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem said in a state-

Israeli police said they had launched an investigation into "the defacement of a large number of tombstones in the Protestant cemetery". Standing before one of the damaged graves, Naoum said: "We are not only dismayed but we are very much saddened."

## PM AJK seeks UK's proactive role to resolve Kashmir problem

跨 Abdul Majeed Tahir

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Aza Jammu and Kashmir, Sardar Tanveer Ilyas Khan while terming the Kashmir issue as a matter of right to self determination of millions of Kashmiris has said that it was the responsibility of the British government to play its role in resolving the dispute in line with the wishes of the Kashmiris. The AJK premier said this while talking to a delegation comprised of members of the representatives of Khubaib Foundation here on Wednesday.

and violence in occupied Kashmir and no action whatsoever was being and other international organizations taken against Indian government that has let loose it's forces to kill Kashmiris in the occupied Kashmir."

Kashmiris' only fault is that they



are Muslims", he said. "Why are the resolutions of the United Nations not being implemented even after the lapse of seven years", the PM asked. British House of Lords, British and He said that it was unfortunate that European Members of Parliament, India had deprived Kashmiris of their basic human rights.

He said that it was high time that Speaking on the occasion, the PM the UN should send a fact finding said that world was remorselessly mission in Kashmir to take stock of watching the continued bloodshed the situation in the troubled region.

He said that the United Nations should play their role and exert pressure on India to give Kashmiris their right to self-determination. India, he said, was changing the demography of Occupied Kashmir so that it can convert the Muslim majority into a He said that the role of the overseas

community was important to highlight the Kashmir issue and expose Indian atrocities worldwide. He said that the Kashmiri diaspora

community has always raised its voice for the rights of Kashmiris. On this occasion, the Prime Minis-

ter appreciated the welfare activities of Khubaib Foundation and said that Islam teaches us to serve humanity.

Those who were part of the delegation included Lord Qurban Hussain. Lord Wajid Khan, UK Shadow Minister Imran Hussain, Deputy Lord Mayor of Manchester Yasmin Dar, Executive Chairman Regeneration and Environment Committee Kamran Hussain, Secretary General Pakistan Press Club UK Arshad Rachiyal, Raja Najabat Hussain, Chairman Slack Asian Majid Nazir, President Khubaib Foundation Aman

## Palestinians mull next moves after Israel minister's Al-Aqsa visit

News Desk

GAZA CITY: Palestinians are holding urgent talks on their next moves after an extremeright Israeli minister visited Jerusalem's Al-Aqsa mosque compound, a step so far met with stern words rather than violence.

There have been fears Tuesday's controversial visit by Israel's new national security minister, firebrand Itamar Ben-Gvir, could spark a war.

Palestinian militant group Hamas, which rules the Gaza Strip, had earlier warned such a move would be a "red line".

Al-Aqsa mosque lies in Israeli-annexed east Jerusalem and is the third-holiest site in Islam. It who refer to it as Temple Mount. government of Prime Minister

Hours after Ben-Gvir's appearance at the sensitive site. Hamas and other militant groups held emergency meetings to discuss a "proportionate" response, sources within the movement told AFP.

Overnight a single rocket was fired from Gaza, though it failed to cross into Israeli territory and the launch went unclaimed by any group.

Jamal al-Fadi, a politics professor at Gaza's Al-Azhar University, said Hamas "does not want a new military escalation and is currently gauging American and Arab reactions".

Ben-Gvir has gained notoriety for his anti-Arab rhetoric and his actions were roundly condemned by Arab nations, in what could is the most sacred place to Jews, prove a first test for the new

Benjamin Netanyahu.

Among them were the three states which recently launched diplomatic ties with Israel: Bahrain, Morocco and the United Arab Emirates.

Washington, meanwhile, warned it could "provoke violence" and recalled a 2000 visit by Israel's then opposition leader Ariel Sharon.

It became one of the main triggers for the second Palestinian intifada, or uprising, which lasted until 2005.

'Great provocation'

Despite such a precedent, Fadi said Hamas may have shown initial restraint because it is "looking for gains for its citizens".

Gaza's 2.3 million residents are living under an Israeli-led blockade, imposed since 2007, and the

academic said Hamas could have held off as a negotiating tactic.

The executive committee of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO), led by Abbas, is set to meet Thursday.

Nour Odeh, a Palestinian analyst, said the Palestinian Authority in the West Bank was "out of playing cards" and reliant on the reaction of Arab states.

"They (PLO) understand that the longer this goes on, the worse they're going to look, if that's even possible," said Odeh, who had not expected an immediate response to Ben-Gvir's visit.

"Ben Gvir is basically creating a pressure cooker situation that is already compounding a very tense situation on the ground,"

Last year more than 230 Pales-



tinians and 26 Israelis were Bank. "He's pushing for an explokilled, the majority in the West

sion. What that explosion will look like, nobody knows."

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

<b>Fluctuation</b>
00-Share Index
Prev. Close
40,630.64
Day's Low:
40,497.98
Change
-91.34
Time
Jan 4, 2023 5:00 pm
E 100 Index
Change
+17.32
Time
4 Jan, 3:01 pm GMT
ndustrial Average
Change
-22.31
Time

-0.067%	4 Jan, 10:06 am GMT-5		
Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Averag			
Index Value	Change		
25,716.86	-377.64		
Percentage	Time		
-1.45%	4 Jan, 3:15 pm		

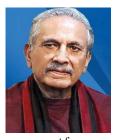
#### **Open Market Forex Rates**

GMT+9

Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	160	161.25
Bahrain Dinar	602.69	607.19
Canadian Dollar	171	172.35
China Yuan	32.77	33.02
Danish Krone	32.17	32.52
Euro	263.5	265.5
Hong Kong Dollar	29.04	29.39
Indian Rupee	2.72	2.8
Japanese Yen	2.36	2.4
Kuwaiti Dinar	739.7	744.7
Malaysian Ringgit	50.95	51.4
NewZealand \$	144	145.2
Norwegians Krone	22.43	22.73
Omani Riyal	588.62	593.12
Qatari Riyal	62.26	62.76
Saudi Riyal	66.2	66.8
Singapore Dollar	168.46	169.76
Swedish Korona	21.78	22.08
Swiss Franc	241.85	243.6
Thai Bhat	6.59	6.69
U.A.E Dirham	68.4	69
UK Pound Sterling	299	302

#### Govt energy conversation plan lauded

News Desk



Former President of Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) Dr. Shahid Rasheed Butt on Wednesday lauded the federal

ISLAMABAD:

government for approving the National Energy Efficiency and Conservation Plan to save energy.

The decision will help reduce the oil import bill, slow the accumulation of circular debt which is almost Rs2.5 trillion and result in an overall saving of almost two billion dollars which will help stabilize the economy, he said.

Shahid Rasheed Butt said that the plan should be implemented with full force without compromise as it will reduce losses in the bleeding energy sector.

According to the decision, the timings of wedding halls and markets across the country will be limited to 10 pm and 8:30 pm respectively.

The business leader also lauded the decision to halt the production of inefficient fans using 120-130 watts of electricity and introduce efficient fans which use less power.

Similarly, the manufacturing of inefficient bulbs would be stopped and additional taxes will be imposed on the ones that were imported which will also save billions.

Shahid Rasheed Butt said that all government buildings and officers will consume efficient energy under the plan while efficient geysers will be made manda-

The government had decided to use streetlights alternatively and promote electric motorcycles.

The formation of a work-from-home policy is also on cards and a building code for the construction sector will be intro-

Mr. Butt said that various trade organizations have rejected the decision and said it would not comply with the new timings which should be dealt with according to the law as it is a matter of survival of the

# NCS decisions will give confidence to government: 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 the economy is under rumors and has become weak due to various problems while the people are sinking in the mire of poverty.

Economists are failing to manage the situation therefore difficult decisions are being postponed, while the public is overwhelmed by inflation, which requires targeted subsidies urgently, he said.

Mian Zahid Hussain said that political compulsions should not be prioritized over the economy and serious efforts should be made to revive the economy otherwise the situation will go out of control.

Talking to the business community, the veter- only option that is being delayed which is tanta- country and its price has reached Rs145 per take tough measures.



an business leader said that going to IMF is the

mount to destroying the country's economy. Some politicians are claiming on a daily basis that the solution to all the problems is the election but they are not ready to give a plan beyond

the election, which is an attempt to throw dust in the eyes of the people. In the past too, they had claimed to make

Pakistan a paradise with the help of two hundred economists, but after getting power, they ruined the economy.

Mian Zahid Hussain said that political instability and inflation are increasing rapidly, which has increased the anxiety and restlessness of the people and the foundation of the economy is shaking.

The burden of the government structure is increasing while various institutions are suffering from degradation. Rising deficits and debt payments have perplexed experts, he noted.

There has been a huge flour crisis in the

kg. Currently, there is a shortage of dollars in the country, its value and demand are constantly increasing due to artificial measures, leaving the value of the dollar to the market can overcome the shortage of dollars, he observed.

The business leader said that the electricity and gas bills have kept the public and the business community puzzled and no one not getting any relief. Apart from this, millions of flood victims are waiting for relief under the open sky in this cold weather.

In these circumstances, the ruling coalition will have to give priority to improving economic affairs, ensuring national security, ending terrorism, improving relations with important countries and reducing its expenses, and reducing the focus on the opposition.

He welcomed the recent decisions of the National Security Council and said it will give the necessary confidence to the government to

## No shortage of wheat in the country: Tariq Cheema

**Example 2** Commerce Reporter

ISLAMABAD :Federal Minister for National Food Security and Research Tariq Bashir Cheema has said that there is no shortage of wheat in the country and the strategic reserves are satisfactory.

While addressing a presser in Islamabad, Federal Minister Tariq Bashir Cheema said that he will propose to the Prime Minister to provide wheat to the flour mills in Islamabad through PASSCO (Pakistan Agricultural Storage & Services Corporation).

"The daily requirement of the forty flour mills in Islamabad is 38,000 bags of 20kg. Punjab government is not providing enough to these flour mills and resultantly there is a shortage of 17,000 bags per day," he added.

He said that since the millers are buying from the open market to meet the shortfall, the price of wheat flour is rising.

He reminded that the Punjab failed to



meet its wheat procurement target for the year and approached the Federal government to meet the shortfall. He stressed that the Punjab government should provide mills in Islamabad with the required

Federal Minister Tariq Bashir Cheema said that there are 38 points in Islamabad where the government is providing wheat flour at a low price to provide relief to the public.

While talking about the delay in the announcement of the support price of wheat by the Federal Government, Federal Minister Tariq Bashir Cheema said that the Sindh government has set wheat support price at Rs 4,000 per 40kg, which is very high. He hoped that the issue will be settled soon in a meeting between Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari.

He said that after 18th Amendment, prices of the essential items are controlled by the provincial governments. He stressed that provincial governments should take responsibility and take measures to ensure food security of essential items and control

Federal Minister Tariq Bashir Cheema said that wheat flour mills are grinding less than their capacity across the country, which is resulting in artificially high prices. He stressed that the provincial governments should take action against them.

# Elites are happy, people and economy being ignored

Sommerce Reporter

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Economy Watch (PEW) on Wednesday said the ruling coalition has not been able to give the people anything but inflation and unemploy-

Instead of the welfare of the people, the government's focus is on fulfilling the demands of the allies and silencing the opposition, it

This style of governance is undermining the economy while millions of people are falling below the poverty line, said Dr. Murtaza Mughal, President of PEW.

He said that the economy is in ICU but the burden on it is being continuously increased, the economy is being neglected, and political issues are being given full attention.

Except for the elite, the whole country is worried, but flowery press conferences, laid off.



and no institution or country is willing to give loans because they have no hope of return, while a large number of people are thinking that the experience of forming a government by combining all the major parties of the country has failed.

It seems that country's economic growth will be negative by the end of the current fiscal year if the situation was not improved.

He said industries were shutting down while largescale manufacturing, agriculture, exports, and remittances were all in the nega-

The textile sector, which constitutes 64 percent of the country's export, was seeing the government is not listen- a decline in its export of ing to anyone and keeping around 2.2 billion dollars per itself busy in fruitless meet- month and over 1.5 million ings, useless briefings, and textile workers have been If the government contin

Dr. Mughal said that the ues like this, the country may country's treasury is empty, go bankrupt, he warned.

## Chairman SECP for continuous engagement with market participants

KARACHI: The Chairman, Securities & Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) Akif Saeed, during his visit to Karachi, met with the management and Board of Directors of Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX), National Clearing Company of Pakistan Limited (NCCPL) as well as the Executive Committee of Pakistan Stock Brokers Association (PSBA) representing brokerage industry.

The Chairman was accompanied by Commissioner SECP, Abdul Rehman Warraich and the SECP team, including Musarat Jabeen, Executive Director, Chairman's Secretariat, and Asif Iqbal, Head of Department, PRDD-SMD.

The Chairman SECP and his team were welcomed by the MD & CEO PSX, Mr. Farrukh H. Khan, PSX Board Members and PSX senior management. The objective of the meeting was to apprise the newly appointed Chairman and the Commissioner, SECP, of the latest capital market developments, current progress, challenges, and to identify areas where focused efforts and mutual cooperation of PSX, the front-line regulator, and SECP, the apex regulator, would be required.



The senior officials of SECP and PSX discussed measures for growth of the capital market, encouraging new listings, enhancing efficiency of the digital onboarding mechanism for investors, and benefiting from the emerging financial technology. The officials further discussed proposals for reforms in taxation and pension plans, product development, Exchange Traded Funds, derivatives market and fixed income products and the need for adequate training of staff of market intermediaries. Moreover, the possibility of listing CPEC projects at PSX was also deliberated upon.

In a subsequent meeting with the Board and senior management of NCCPL during the day, the Chairman and his team were briefed about the ongoing developments and future plans

ures were discussed for bringing reforms in risk management, Shariah-compliant leveraged market products and government debt securities to promote the debt market in the country.

The SECP Chairman also stressed upon joint efforts of frontline and apex regulators for investor education to increase investors' footprints in the capital market.

Further, another meeting was held with the Executive Committee of PSBA wherein brokers welcomed the new Chairman SECP and submitted proposals to facilitate brokerage industry by providing ease of doing business, necessary simplification of regulatory requirements, and elimination of duplication to reduce costs and improve efficiency. It was emphasized to utilize shared KYC mechanism and digital on boarding facilities to increase investor base in Pakistan.

The Chairman, SECP, stressed the importance of continuous engagement with market participants and further resolved to provide necessary support to capital market infrastructure institutions and relevant stakeholders for the progress and development of capital market in Pakistan.

Reduced shop timings will not save 62 billion through energy conservation

**Spokesman Report** KARACHI : Mr. Irfan Iqbal

Sheikh, President FPCCI, has explained unequivocally that the newly announced shop timings will not save billions of rupees in energy consumption expenditures as envisaged by the federal government in its National Energy Conservation Plan - as the end result of closing the markets and shops at 08:30 PM. The decision is an exercise in futility to say the least; for its being consultation-less vis-à-vis commercial stakeholders, he added.

Mr. Irfan Igbal Sheikh added that power conservation is an absolute necessity for the country; however, the approach and methodology to achieve that should be in-consultation with the business, industry and trade community to make the measures practical, inoffensive, objective and should be able to deliver real savings.

He has also questioned the issues of electricity theft & line losses; which are running up to 35 percent; and, instead, the govt has embarked on squeezing the already burgeoned business community in the name of conservation.

### **Martin Down Group** win 2 GDEIB Awards

News Desk

KARACHI: Martin Dow Group, a Leading Multinational Healthcare Group in Pakistan received Global Diversity, Equity & Inclusion (DEI) Benchmark Awards 2023 in 2 categories.

The company received

Best Practice' award in WORK-LIFE INTEGRA-TION, FLEXIBILITY, & BENEFITS for demonstrating exemplary global practices in DEI whereas the organizations is also recognized as PROGRESSIVE in the category of COMMU-NITY, GOVERNMENT RELATIONS & PHILAN-THROPY.

Shahrukh Masood, Group Director HR & Corporate Communications at Martin Dow while expressing elation on this recognition said "we are proud to be recognized by

the global platform for our healthy work culture, CSR activities, and community engagement programs. These awards are in line with our values "We create opportunities for all our partners to flourish" and We are here to improve the quality of life for the communities we serve".

e further said "Martin Dow Group's activities are aligned with the internal & external goals of GDEIB. We believe in healthy work culture in all our departments including flexing working hours, weekly work-from-home, health and fitness opportunities through gym and sports, opportunities for growth through capacity building programs, facilities for female employees such as Baby's daycare, women leadership program, pay-con, health awareness sessions.

## AlHuda CIBE successfully organized Training on Islamic Microfinance

Spokesman Report

LAHORE: The One Day Specialized Training Workshop on Basics by AlHuda Centre of Islamic Banking and Economics was successfully concluded at Grand Millennium Hotel, Lahore on December 21, 2022. The purpose of the training was to promote, strengthen the workshop on various relevant topics will strengthen the level of knowledge of industry professionals which ultimately will help the awareness among

general public of the nations.

et) attended the training. The wellknown trainers and consultant of Islamic finance, Mufti Raees Ahmad of Islamic Microfinance organized and Mr. Khalil ur Rahman conducted the training. During the training, the concepts of Murabahah, Salam, Istisna and Mudarabah, product development and product innovation of Islamic microfinance was discussed. The demand of Islamic bank-

knowledge on Islamic Microfinance ing and (micro)finance products is organization. Specialized training increasing. Moreover, the government act and the Shariah court decision on Islamic Finance help to promote the Islamic finance industry across the country which will enhance the financial inclusion among the The participants from Naziran inhabitant of the society. This also

Yousaf Memorial Trust (Naym- will gear-up the economic growth and living standard of the people.

The Central bank of Pakistan is aggressively working on Islamic banking and finance framework for the development and the promotion of Islamic finance industry. The bank is very supportive to implement the Islamic finance initiatives in the country by regulating the Islamic finance laws and regulations. The population of Pakistan is around 240 million and 97% of population is Muslim. This indicator is supportive for the growth of Islamic (micro)finance industry. Furthermore, the central bank also published the next five-year plane for Islamic finance industry. This will not only help to eradicate the poverty



from the country rather will develop tive financial system to take part the the viable and sustainable alterna- development and economic growth.

PCB to announce ODI squad for New Zealand series

KARACHI: Pakistan's ODI squad for the three-match ODI

home series against New Zealand will be announced tomor-

According to the detail, the head of the Men's Interim Nation-

"Consultation has been made with head coach Saqlain Mush-

taq and captain Babar Azam regarding the players' selection for the One-Day squad," Afridi said.

Last week, the interim selection committee for the nation-

al men's team initially named 21 probables for the home ODI series. Later, fast bowler Mohammad Hasnain and batters Haris

It is pertinent to mention here that the three-game  $\operatorname{ODI}$  series

Babar Azam (c), Abdullah Shafiq, Abrar Ahmed, Aamer Jamal,

Haris Rauf, Hasan Ali, Ihsanullah, Imam-ul-Haq, Kamran Ghulam, Mohammad Haris, Mohammad Nawaz, Mohammad

Rizwan, Mohammad Wasim, Naseem Shah, Qasim Akram,

Salman Ali Agha, Shadab Khan, Shahnawaz Dahani, Shan Masood, Sharjeel Khan Tayyab Tahir, Mohammad Hasnain,

returns to club duty with PSG

World Cup winner Messi

will commence on January 9 (Monday) after the conclusion of

al Selection Committee, Shahid Afridi, will name a 16-member national squad for the upcoming white-ball assignment from

the list of 24 probables selected by the committee.

Sohail and Fakhar Zaman were added to the list.

the ongoing second Test on Friday.

Fakhar Zaman and Haris Sohail

PROBABLES:

row, sources claimed

tomorrow: Sources

# 20-K gets underway from today at Model Town Greens ground

 $LAHORE: The \, 20\text{-}K\, Cup\, T20\, Tourna$ ment will get underway from tomorrow Thursday with hosts Model Town Greens Club taking on Pindi Gymkhana in the inaugural match here at Model Town Greens ground.

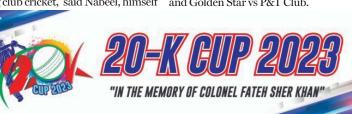
The event, which involves altogether twenty top most local clubs of the city, promises exciting cricket in the shortest version of the game.

Apart from the hosts ground, MTG, four other grounds of the city will hold the matches of the competition, which has been sponsored by Nabeel Ahmad, who is also the patron of this annual

The competition previously known as Col Fateh Sher Khan Memorial T20 Cup, is being organized to pay homage to Nabeel's father in recognition of his services for the homeland. The event offers a total prize of Rs over a million with special cash prizes for top perform-

According to Nabeel Ahmad, the prime objective of holding this event on Model Town Whites, Model Town Club ship Whites vs Prince Club, Model Town Whites vs Prince Club, Whites vs Prince Cl annual basis is to revive club cricket and tape new talent. "While living in America, I am contributing in a national duty to promote cricket as collective efforts are needed to infuse a new life in Pakistan's dying club cricket," said Nabeel, himself

vs Prince Club and Township Whites vs Lucky Star Club; On an 10, Apollo Club vs Shah Faisal Club; On Jan 11, Golden Star vs Pak Lion, Prince Club vs Lucky Star Club, Ali Garh Club vs Valencia Club and Golden Star vs P&T Club.



a former cricketer.

On Friday (January 6), Model Town Greens will play against P&T Gymkhana at Model Town Greens ground at 11:00 am in Pool A while in Pool B, Cricket Centre Club will vie against Yu Slim Cricket Club at Cricket Centre ground at 11:00 am. On January 7, Pindi Gym Vs Golden Star; On Jan 8, Ludhiana Gym vs

On Jan 12, Model Town Whites vs Shah Kamal, Pak Lion P&T Club and Shinning Club vs Yu Slim Club; On Jan 13, Model Town Club vs Lucky Star Club and Cricket Centre vs Shah Kamal Club; On Jan 14, Pindi Gym vs P&T Club and Apollo Club vs Valencia Club; On Jan 16, Model Town Club vs City Gym, Township

Model Town Whites, Model Town Club ship Whites vs Prince Club, Model Town Greens vs Golden Star Club, Apollo Club vs Aligarh Club and Model Town Whites vs Shinning Club.

On Jan 18, Model Town Club vs Township Whites, Ludhiana vs Ali Garh, Yu Slim Club vs Shah Kamal, Lucky Star vs City Gymkhana and Model Town Greens vs Pak Lion; On Jan 19, Shah Faisal vs Valencia Club, Mode Whites vs Yu Slim Club and Shah Faisal Club vs Ali Garh Club; On Jan 20, Cricket Centre vs Shinning Club, Prince Club vs City Gymkhana and Shah Faisal vs Ludhiana Club; on Jan 21, the last league match will be played between Pindi Gym and Pak Lion

The quarterfinals of the tournament will be held from January 22 to 25 while semifinals will take place on January 26 and 27 and the grand final will be held on January 28. The PCB affiliated umpires match referees and scorers will officiate in

## Zimbabwe's squad for Ireland T20Is includes England's Gary Ballance

A Sports -

HARARE: Zimbabwe Cricket on Wednesday unveiled their T20I squad for the home series against Ireland that features former England batter Gary

According to the details, the former England batter Ballance recently signed a two-year deal with Zimbabwe Cricket - the country of his birth - following his exclusion from county cricket side Yorkshire in December last vear.

Notably, Ballance represented England in 23 Tests and 16 ODIs between 2014 and 2017.

"I'm thrilled to be joining Zimbabwe Cricket and can't wait to start work with some great coaches and talented players," said Ballance.



"The opportunity to reprea new-found passion and excitement for the game.

"I have kept in touch with a number of people within Zimbabwe cricket over the years and it has been great to watch their recent progress especially."

Meanwhile, dynamic all-rounder Sikandar Raza alongside wicketkeeper-batwas omitted from the squad ter Regis Chakabva and Nyauchi, Sean Williams

for Ireland T20Is as he has sent Zimbabwe has given me been granted permission to partake in the United Arab Emirate's (UAE) ILT20,

in which he will represent

Dubai Capitals. Furthermore, right-arm pacer Blessing Muzarabani, who is recovering from a quadriceps injury was also missing from the squad Milton Shumba.

Whereas, Innocent Kaia, Tadiwanashe Marumani and Victor Nyauchi have all been called up for the home T20I

It is apropos to mention that the three-match series between Zimbabwe and Ireland will be played on January 12, 14 and 15 at Harare Sports Club followed by ODI series of as many matches, scheduled to take place at the same venue on January 18, 21 and 23.

Craig Ervine (capt), Gary Ballance, Ryan Burl, Tendai Chatara, Bradley Evans, Luke Jongwe, Innocent Kaia, Clive Madande, Wessly Madhevere, Tadiwanashe Marumani, Wellington Masakadza, Tony Munyonga, Richard Ngarava, Victor

#### It was my dream to score my first century in Karachi, says Saud

J					
TTERMES	LCL	Bank Alfalah	MAS	BATTENES	Salah
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**Spokesman Report** 

KARACHI: Pakistan's left-handed middle-order batter Saud Shakeel who brought up his maiden Test century on the third day of the ongoing second Test against New Zealand, shared it was always his dream to score his first hundred at his home

Coming out to bat when Pakistan were struggling at 99/3, Saud displayed sheer grit as he batted for almost four sessions and settled things down for the hosts with his fighting century.

Following the achievement, the left-handed batter expressed satisfaction and claimed it was always his dream to score his maiden century on his home ground.

"First of all, thanks to Almighty Allah as I managed to score my first century. I scored my maiden first-class century at [National Bank Cricket Arena ] and I was hopeful for scoring my first international century here,"

"Because the ground you grow up playing in, you know a lot about it," he added.

Saud then also credited wicketkeeper batter Sarfaraz Ahmed for guiding him in the process as he shared he got nervous in

"I think when he was at the crease with me when I was in my 90s, I got a bit nervous during a couple of overs but he told me not to take tension and I will get there," shared

"He's a very senior player and I have played beside him since my childhood so it was fortunate for me that he was there and guided me really well and by the will of

Allah, I scored a century," he added. It is worth mentioning that left-handed middle-order batter Saud put up a brave fight with his gritty maiden Test century and barred New Zealand from bundling out the hosts as Pakistan hung on for 407/9 at the

Starting from an overnight score of 154/3. Pakistan added 253 runs to the total and lost six wickets throughout the day, with Saud and Sarfaraz Ahmed punching an astounding partnership of 150 runs before New Zealand made a comeback in the game. Saud (124\*) and Abrar Ahmed (0\*) will now resume Pakistan's first innings on the fourth day as the hosts still trail by 42

## the matches, which will be shown live on Whites vs City Gymkhana and Ludhiana different social media platforms.

**№** Web Desk PARIS: Seventeen days after guiding Argentina to an epic World Cup final victory over France, Lionel Messi reported back to work on Wednesday, his French club Paris Saint-Germain announced.

The 35-year-old seven-time Ballon d'Or winner reported back to the club's training ground as they prepare for Saturday's French Cup tie at third tier side Chateauroux.

scored twice as Argentina drew 3-3 with France in the Qatar final, before prevailing in the penalty shoot-out. Since then he has been celebrating in Argentina and spending time with his family.

On Wednesday, he was given a guard of honour by his teammates at the training ground, before being presented with a small trophy by PSG's sporting director Luis Campos, according to images posted by the club on its Twitter account.

Messi's teammates Kylian Mbappe, who scored a hat-trick in a losing cause in the final, and Morocco's Achraf Hakimi returned to club duty just three days after the final with Brazil's Neymar checking in a day later.

Messi is unlikely to play this weekend, more probably making his return in the home Ligue 1 match against Angers next

#### Babar slips to third in latest ICC Test Batting Rankings

**№** A Sports

DUBAI: Pakistan's all-format captain Babar Azam has slipped to the third spot in the latest International Cricket Council (ICC) Men's Test Batting Rankings.

As per the latest rankings shared by the ICC, the right-handed batter has been demoted to third place as he failed in two innings of the ongoing home Test series against New Zealand. Notably, Babar played a magnificent 161-run knock in the first innings of the first Test against New Zealand but he could score a mere 14 in the second.

The captain then remained unlucky in the first innings of the ongoing second Test and could score 24 runs following a mix-up between the wicket with opening batter Imam-ul-Haq.

## First ever Hockey High Performance Center at Nishtar Park

#### **Example 2** Tahir Amin Malik

LAHORE: Punjab Minister for Sports and Youth Affairs Malik Taimoor Masood has laid the foundation stone of the country's first ever Hockey High Performance Center at Nishtar Park Sports Complex on Wednesday.

Punjab Minister for Sports and Youth Affairs Malik Taimoor Masood also laid the foundation stone of a Gym at Punjab International Swimming Complex the same day.

Secretary Sports and Youth Affairs Punjab Musarmad Tariq Qureshi, Director ects. Admin Syed Umair Hassan,



Punjab Muhammad Tariq Qureshi and Project Director PMU Qaiser Raza gave a thorough briefing to Punjab Minister for Sports and Youth rat Jabeen, Director Gener- Affairs Malik Taimoor Masood al Sports Punjab Muham- regarding the elite sports proj-

While giving briefing, Direc-Project Director PMU Qaiser tor General Sports Punjab Raza, Deputy Director Plan- Muhammad Tariq Qureshi ning Rauf Bajwa and other informed that the location will be given modern training sion of qualified hockey coachofficials were also present on of High Performance Centre for Hockey has been changed

Director General Sports as per its suitability and now this elite facility will be built at archery ground opposite NPSC E-Library. While talking to the media,

Punjab Minister for Sports and Youth Affairs Malik Taimoor Masood said that the High Performance Centre for Hockey will prove to be a revolutionary measure for the revival of hockey. "Around 100 players in the state of the art project which will be completed within a period of two years with the cost of over Rs 70 crore, he added. Puniab Minister for Sports

and Youth Affairs Malik

Taimoor Masood informed that a modern gym, conference hall, training hall and Astroturf on top floor will be constructed in the Hockey High Performance Center. "The second Hockey High Performance Center will be built in Faisalabad in near future," he added. Punjab Minister for Sports

and Youth Affairs Malik Taimoor Masood said that Hockey High Performance Center will definitely be a great facility for young male and female hockey players from across the country. "Our talented players will be able to polish their skills under the supervies at the Hockey High Performance Center," he added.

## Shakeel's maiden ton drives Pakistan but New Zealand make late advances in tussle for lead

KARACHI: Ajaz Patel and Ish only 70 runs in 31 overs in the final Sodhi strike quick blows in fading light to hurt Pakistan

Tom Latham shelled two catches as the second Test in Karachi saw an otherwise tame third day's play end with New Zealand bagging a flurry of wickets. Pakistan lost four wickets for 12 runs in a lower-order collapse in fading light, but Saud Shakeel was still undefeated on a solid 124 from 336 deliveries, his maiden Test century.

New Zealand 42 ahead, with Pakistan having only one wicket remaining on a flat Karachi surface that is vet to see any sort of deterioration. The hosts, too, have been happy to bide time and test the bowlers' patience. They added

session, 34 of which came in the last ten overs of the day. After tea, Shakeel faced 94 balls

and scored only 23 runs. Overall, he let go of 66 out of the 111 deliveries that landed outside off from the pace bowlers in his entire innings. The only time he seemed to poke outside off and away from his body, Latham dropped a simple catch while going reversecupped at short point just after being brought in to stand exactly Eventually, the day ended with at that position. Shakeel was on 102 at the time.

The grind from Shakeel and Agha Salman meant they added only 53 in 25 overs before Ajaz Patel finally broke the stand, though that was down to sharp catching by Michael Bracewell at

only for the ball to take a little top edge, hit his right shoulder, and pop towards Bracewell, who went first went to his left, considering the shot and the bowler's aroundthe-wicket angle, only to immediately skip to his right to grab that on the second attempt even after tumbling down.

That opened the door for a bunch of late wickets, as Hasan Ali swung Ajaz in the 127th over to deep midwicket, where Devon Conway snapped up a smart catch close to the ropes. Four balls later, Latham, at silly point to Ajaz, saw a push from Naseem Shah hit his right hand and fall off. It was, however, a tough chance with a lack of reaction time.

But two overs later, Ish Sodhi

slip. Salman went to sweep Ajaz, joined in on the fun when he removed Naseem and Mir Hamza off successive balls, cleaning both of them up using the googly and the legspinner, respectively. But Shakeel and last man Abrar Ahmed saw off the day for Paki-

Pakistan had earlier scored rather rapidly in the second session, which fetched them 113 runs at more than four an over. Much of that was down to Sarfaraz Ahmed, who hit an entertaining 78 to keep piling runs on comeback.

He got to his third fifty in a row off 61 balls, especially targetting Ajaz, off whom he picked 22 off 16 deliveries. Sarfaraz even negated any possible movement with the second new ball by walking down and getting across off to



before tea, with the third umpire

He had missed a delivery angling down leg off Daryl Mitchell, and lost balance. Eventually,

play Southee. And it took some his back leg ended close to his nimble glovework by Tom Blun- front leg, which he tried to drag dell to stump Sarfaraz minutes back, only for Blundell to whip the bails off despite taking the ball well checking multiple replays from down the leg side. That came just various angles before ruling it out. two balls after Sarfaraz had been saved by the DRS when umpire Alex Wharf had ruled him out leg

Earlier in the day, Imam-ul-Haq missed out on a century for a second successive time, falling for 83 as Southee broke the solid 83-run stand between Imam and Shakeel when he forced the former to play away from his body, with replays showing a faint nick off the toe end of the bat. Sarfaraz came out to bat after Imam fell, and got into some cat-and-mouse stuff with Sodhi. The legspinner beat Sarfaraz off the first ball he bowled to him, but ended up conceding 25 off the 32 balls he bowled to him.

But both spinners Sodhi and Ajaz got into the action as the third day neared its end, leaving New Zealand with an opportunity of a meagre first-innings advantage even with before wicket off Mitchell's first no demons in the pitch yet.