



Imran buried PDM's politics, says Sheikh Rashid

Awami Muslim League (AML) chief Sheikh Rashid lambasted on Friday his political opponents, saying Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan had ended the politics of the Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM). Heaping praise on the deposed premier, Mr Rashid said, "The politics of today, whether it be local or international, favoured Imran Khan."



Sindh Governor suggests imran khan to stay away from Fawad Chaudhry

Sindh Governor Kamran Tessori has suggested Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chief Imran Khan stay away from the party vice president Fawad Chaudhry. While addressing a press conference after holding a meeting with Muhajir Qaumi Movement (MQM) chief Afaq Ahmed, Sindh Governor Kamran Tessori reacted to the statement of PTI VP Fawad Chaudhry. Tessori said that he will not respond to the PTI VP's statement.

Simultaneously published from Islamabad, Lahore and Multan

Condoles

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif condoled with the family of Director Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) Naveed Sadiq Shaheed here at his home. The prime minister announced Hilal-e-Shujaat for Naveed Sadiq and Sitara-e-Shujaat for Inspector Nasir Abbas.



New Virtual Studio of PTV to help bridge tech gap: Marriyum



Special Correspondent has the distinction of being the largest virtual studio in Pakistan, she said.

ISLAMABAD :Minister for Information and Broadcasting Marriyum Aurangzeb Friday said in the era of modern technology, largest Virtual Studio of Pakistan Television would help in bridging the tech gap.

This she said while inaugurating the Virtual Studio of PTV along with Minister for Power Division Khurram Dastgir.

The minister said that Pakistan Television had the required assets but there was need to use them in the best way.

Today, with the efforts of PTV staff and management, IT solutions were being used in PTV, which was a requirement of the modern age, she said.

"The establishment of Virtual Studio is another milestone for Pakistan Television which

Secretary Information and Broadcasting Shahira Shahid, MD PTV Sohail Ali Khan and Chairman Pakistan Electronic Media Regulatory Authority Saleem Baig were also present on the occasion of the inauguration.

She said that now the PTV News will now work in a modern way, providing accurate news to the viewers.

Pakistan Television's state-of-the-art virtual set will present national, regional and international news as well as weather and sports news and current affairs programs to the public in an innovative manner, she said.

Pakistan Television has achieved many milestones during its 58-year journey.

He expressed the hope that if Afghanistan implemented this agreement, peace would be strengthened in Pakistan and the world at large.

Criticizing Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chief Imran Khan, Sana said he was such a cheat that he was not fired but was pretending of being fired for the last two months.

"If there was a fire, he would have improved in two weeks, but he still says that he needs another month and a half to recover," he maintained.

PM appeals business community to support govt's energy conservation plan

News Desk

ISLAMABAD : Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Friday appealed business community to support the government's recently announced energy conservation plan marking the early closure of markets and restaurants, to ensure judicious use of national resources and reduce the import bill.

"I appeal to the business community to extend their support to the government (for energy conservation). This will reduce the oil import and bring down the dollar rate which would later be spent on the country's progress including agriculture and medicine," the prime minister said addressing a ceremony for the establishment of Hazara Electric Company here.

Covering a total area of over 16,774 square kilometers, the new company would cater to the needs of around 726,000 consumers across Haripur, Manshera, Abbottabad, Battagram, Torgarh, Kohistan Upper,



Kohistan Lower and Kolai Plus. The prime minister said any difficulty faced by a nation necessitated collective action and expressed the hope that the traders from across the country would take part in this "jihad" to save the national resources.

Referring to his telephonic interaction with IMF Managing Director Kristalina Georgieva on Thursday, the prime minister assured that, unlike its predecessor, the incumbent government would abide by its commitments with IMF without

further burdening the masses.

However, he also sensitized the IMF head over the country's economic condition adversely affected by the worst floods and made it clear his government had already taxed the rich but could no more burden the poor.

The IMF assured that their team would visit Pakistan for a review within two to three days, the PM added.

Speaking highly of the Pak-China fraternal relations, the prime minister said in his meeting, the Chinese Premier

Li Keqiang had also urged the IMF chief to support Pakistan considering the tough circumstances.

He also apprised the gathering of his 45-minute-long telephonic conversation with the Chinese Premier on Thursday in which the latter assured him not to leave Pakistan alone, which the prime minister said was evident from the improvement of bilateral relations strained by the poor foreign policy of the previous government.

The prime minister criticized the previous government for undermining Pakistan's relations with friendly countries including China, Saudi Arabia, and the UAE because the ex-prime minister Imran Khan utilized most of his energies on political victimization and blaming the opponents.

The prime minister assured that the coalition government would do its maximum for the relief of the masses including the provision of jobs.

He said with the establish-

ment of HAZECO, a longstanding demand of the Hazara people was fulfilled and all the formalities in this regard would be completed immediately.

He said the government had already ordered the completion of half-complete gas projects initiated in the past as billions from the national kitty were already spent.

He recalled that besides launching numerous development schemes across the Hazara region, ex-prime minister Nawaz Sharif had launched LNG-based power plants to inject another 11,000MW of electricity into the national grid to support the energy-scarce country.

Calling Imran Khan a thankless person, the prime minister said the PTI chief had nothing to claim the credit for any development project in KP, Sindh, AJK, GB and Hazara.

He said despite enjoying their immense support, the PTI chief was ungrateful to the former military leadership and was instead blaming them.

No talks with terrorist organizations: Sana

City Reporter

ISLAMABAD : Minister for Interior Rana Sanauallah on Thursday said the National Security Committee had made it clear that there would be no talks with any terrorist organization.

Addressing a press conference here, the minister said any organization that was used for terrorism against the people or state was unacceptable.

He said the Taliban had promised the entire world, including Pakistan, that they would not allow their land to

be used for terrorist activities against any country.

He expressed the hope that if Afghanistan implemented this agreement, peace would be strengthened in Pakistan and the world at large.

Criticizing Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chief Imran Khan, Sana said he was such a cheat that he was not fired but was pretending of being fired for the last two months.

"If there was a fire, he would have improved in two weeks, but he still says that he needs another month and a half to recover," he maintained.

Will continue to speak against ex-army chief Bajwa, says Imran Khan

Bureau Report

LAHORE :Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan said on Friday that he will continue to speak against former army chief Qamar Javed Bajwa.

The deposed premier was expressing views during his meetup with the court reporters, during which he said, "Punjab Chief Minister Parvez Elahi was having his own opinion over the ex-army chief [Bajwa], and Elahi could not stop us from speaking against him [Bajwa]."

Talking about the establishment, Mr. Khan said that there was no tussle with it, but the PTI was battling for the sake of justice.

Clearing the air over the no-confidence motion, Mr. Khan said, "If the court will ask to take the vote of confidence on January 11, we will be ready."

Continuing to talk about Elahi's vote of confidence, Mr. Khan said, "In Elahi's vote of confidence, we believe that the establishment was not neutral. Contacts were being made with the PTI lawmakers, the confirmation of which was given by three of the lawmakers."



Recalling the negotiations with the government, Mr. Khan said, "The PTI will not do negotiations with the looters."

Hurling allegations at ex-army chief Qamar Javed Bajwa, Mr. Khan claimed that he [Bajwa] was not against corruption, and that was why all the cases against him [Imran's] opponents had been ended.

PTI to resign from PA if assembly dissolution delayed

Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) on Friday decided to resign from Punjab assembly if Punjab Chief Minister (CM) Pervaiz Elahi delayed its dissolution after securing the vote of confidence from the assembly. Sources said that PTI chairman Imran Khan, at a meeting with senior party leadership, said the party must ensure that the CM obtained vote of confidence before Jan 11 and dissolve the assembly, otherwise the party would resign

President for gearing nationwide campaign for mainstreaming differently-abled people

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi Friday reemphasized the need of making accelerated nationwide efforts to create an enabling environment and ensuring all-inclusive participation of persons with physical and mental disabilities in all spheres of society as dignified and respected members.

The president expressed these views while chairing a meeting on the facilitation of persons with disabilities (PWDs) here at the Aiwan-e-Sadr.

The meeting was attended by Minister for Zakat, Ushr, Social Welfare, Special Education and Women Empowerment Department of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Anwar Zeb Khan, Special Assistant to Sindh Chief Minister for the Department of Empowerment of DAP, National Database Registration Authority Chairman Muham-



mad Tariq Malik, senior officials of the Federal Ministry of National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination, Social Welfare Departments of Punjab, Sindh, KP & Balochistan, Elementary and Secondary Education Department of AJK, Labour and Human Resource Development Department of Punjab, and representatives of NAVTTC, Pakistan Bait-ul-Mal, Directorate of Special Education, Islamabad, NIRM, WHO and NADRA.

Gilgit-Baltistan Chief Minis-

ter Khalid Khursheed Khan also attended the meeting through video-link.

During the meeting, the president asked the Federal Ministry of Education and Professional Training (FEPT) to play a lead role and come up with a proposal on national curricula for providing targeted and quality education and market-oriented skills to differently-abled people (DAPs) in a systematic manner in consultation with all stakeholders including provinces, international organizations, NGOs

and private sector to provide a definite and agreed upon world class direction for the educational institutions both at the public and private sectors, besides determining teacher to differently-abled- students ratio in schools.

The president appreciated NADRA for its outreach for the registration of DAPs across the country and emphasized that Authority should introduce a nationwide user-friendly telephonic information and registration system for the DAPs and their family members to create data on location and nature of disability and later with the help of the relevant departments issue them Disability Cards while ensuring maximum facilitations to the DAPs. The data so created would help the governments to develop authentic and meaningful policies, strategies and actions plan for mainstreaming of the DAPs as full and dignified members of the society.

FIA fails to produce accused in Bajwa's tax data leak in court

Special Correspondent

ISLAMABAD :Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) once again failed to produce the two Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) officials accused in leaking former Chief of Army Staff (COAS) Gen Qamar Javed Bajwa's tax data.

The anti-corruption wing had been ordered by the Islamabad District and Sessions court to produce the accused after the completion of 14-day physical remand. However, the judicial magistrate delayed the matter during working hours making the accused's lawyers to wait for nothing.

Reviewing security situation

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif chairs a meeting to review security situation in the country on Friday.



Photo: PID

Support for Pakistan has ebbed away - yet its deadly floodwaters have not: Shehbaz Sharif

Agencies

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif Friday said the apocalyptic rains and floods that had hit Pakistan last summer claimed 1,700 lives, left a swathe of territory the size of Switzerland under water and affected 33 million people - more people than live in most European countries.

In an article for the Guardian newspaper, Shehbaz Sharif wrote: "International attention has receded, but the waters have not. Large parts of Sindh and Balochistan provinces remain inundated. The number of food-insecure people in Pakistan has

doubled to 14 million; another 9 million have been pushed into extreme poverty. These flooded areas now look like a huge series of permanent lakes, transforming forever the terrain and the lives of people living there. No amount of pumps can remove this water in less than a year; and by July 2023, the worry is that these areas may flood again.

We are grateful to the international community and friends of Pakistan for their generosity in helping us to avoid the worst. While the World Health Organization had designated the situ-

ation as a high-level health emergency, the feared waterborne diseases and localised epidemics did not break out due to the efficient working of our vast network of medical camps. Similarly, we were able to restore the damaged communication networks between cities and villages very quickly.

Yet more than 2 million homes, 14,000km of roads and 23,000 schools and clinics have been destroyed. A post-disaster needs assessment (PDNA), carried out in collaboration with the World Bank and the EU, estimated that the damage caused by

floods exceeded \$30bn - a 10th of Pakistan's entire GDP.

"These numbers only scratch the surface of the challenge at hand. They demand a response that would stretch and overwhelm the resources of any country. The UN Secretary General, António Guterres, witnessed the "unimaginable" destruction first-hand during a visit to Sindh province in September. Terming it "climate carnage", the secretary general found himself at a loss for words - "a flooded area that is three times the total area of my own country, Portugal". This devastation has been greater

than that caused by the 2010 floods in Pakistan, which the UN then described as the worst natural disaster it had ever responded to. Pakistan simply cannot do this alone.

"This is why the secretary general and I are co-hosting the International Conference on Climate Resilient Pakistan in Geneva on 9 January. We will be joined by world leaders, representatives of international development and humanitarian organisations, and friends of Pakistan to signal support and solidarity with a country that is grappling with a natural disaster not of its making.

Chinese foundation distributes relief supplies to flood-hit families in Pakistan

Web Desk

BELJING: China Foundation for Rural Development (CFRD), collaborating with Tencent Charity Foundation (Tencent Foundation), distributed relief supplies to flood-affected people in Pakistan.

Up to now, 1,900 units of relief materials have been distributed, including 1,900 food packages, 1,700 cold-resistant tarpaulins, 1,700 quilts, and 1,700 blankets, benefiting more than 13,000 people from 1,900 flood-affected families in Ghizer, Hunza and other areas in Gilgit Baltistan, CEN reported on Friday.

Months after unprecedented floods ravaged Pakistan, vast swathes of cropland and villages remain under water, while nearly 10 million girls and boys remain in need of



immediate, lifesaving support, said UNICEF Regional Office for South Asia (ROSA) earlier this month.

As per the report, millions of people are still exposed to flood-

water or living close to flooded areas. Many families are still living in makeshift tents alongside the road or near the rubble of their homes.

Through such activities, "we

stand by our Pakistani brothers and sisters," a source from CFRD said.

At the end of 2022, CFRD also donated flood relief assistance to the Pakistan Federation

of Chambers and Commerce and Industry (FPCCI).

Irfan Iqbal Sheikh, President of FPCCI said that FPCCI will ensure the successful implementation of food and other relief goods distribution projects with the support from CFRD. The Chinese government and the people of China have made a substantive contribution to Pakistan's relief and rehabilitation efforts, he added.

Established in 1989, China Foundation for Rural Development (formerly China Foundation for Poverty Alleviation) is one of the largest charity organizations in China for poverty alleviation.

At present, CFPA has implemented long-term projects in Myanmar, Nepal, Cambodia, Ethiopia, and Sudan. It also has long-term programs in Pakistan.

Sindh Cabinet approves reservation of seats for transgender in local councils

News Desk

KARACHI: Provincial cabinet Sindh has fixed Rs.302 per 40kg of Sugar-cane as the minimum price for crop 2022-2023 and approved reservation of seats for transgenders in the local councils.

The Cabinet also approved the purchase of additional 40 buses for the People Bus Service run in Karachi.

Meeting of the provincial cabinet was held at the CM House while the Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah in the chair.

Exports not picking up!

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: While Pakistan is in the throes of myriad political problems, the equally worrying spectre is the declining trend recorded in exports that has cast a long-term negative shadow on the economic position of the country.

Pakistan is already lagging behind in establishing a financial equilibrium as the volume of its imports far exceeds the level of exports and this factor is proving harmful for the overall economic health of the country.

The balance of payment crisis is getting acute by the day as exports have not showed signs of improving and the financial planners taking half-hearted measures to control imports.

There are many reasons cited for the failure recorded in increasing exports but it appears that most reasons are not tackled with appropriate measures with the result that export sector remain mired in the bog.

It is certainly not easy to increase the size of exports with the prevailing structural defects in the economic practices of the country as an overhaul in this respect is what is required and, that too, without much further delay. **Opinion: Shabbar Zaidi Spelling Doom**

It is reported that Pakistan's economy keeps on shrinking consistently as is borne out by the figures that point out exports declined in their decline on a year-on-year basis, dipping for the second consecutive month as they fell 18.3 per cent from

\$2.9 billion a year ago.

In contrast, imports rose 11.3 per cent to \$5.25 billion in November compared to October, meaning a monthly trade deficit of \$2.88 billion. However, the imports were 33.6 per cent lower than the November 2021 figure of \$7.89 billion, meaning the annual trade gap was 42.5 per cent down in November.

The coalition government is taking the credit of lowering annual trade gap but many economic experts are of the view that the artificial means adopted by the incumbent finance minister may bring long-term harm to the national economy as imports are required directly for the manufacturing sector to keep on performing at high levels otherwise it would be difficult to meet the revenue requirements of the country.

Imran Khan stuck in swamp of defeats: Saad Rafiq

Bureau Report

LAHORE: Railways and Aviation Minister Khawaja Saad Rafiq has said despite all efforts the captain [Imran Khan] of conspiracy, slander, hypocrisy and propaganda was sinking in the quagmire of defeats.

Taking to Twitter, he said the body language and conversation of the founder of Naya Pakistan was showing his growing frustration as despite all efforts, Imran Khan was sinking in the quagmire of defeats.

He said the way Iman Khan spoke truth [to save his skin] would not be accepted by any one.

The minister said instead of leveling allegations against the previous Establishment the former premier should first tell the nation to how he committed conspiracy of 2014 sit-in, played dirty game of getting Nawaz Sharif disqualified, and stole 2018 elections from the people of Pakistan.

Pak-UK relations based on shared culture of democracy: NA Speaker



News Desk

ISLAMABAD: National Assembly (NA) Speaker Raja Pervaiz Ashraf on Friday said Pakistan and the United Kingdom (UK) enjoyed cordial relations based on a shared culture of democracy and a parliamentary form of government.

He expressed these views during his meeting with Speaker of the House of Commons Lindsay Hoyle on the sidelines of the 26th Conference of Speakers and Presiding Officers of Commonwealth (CSPOC) in Canberra, Australia.

The speaker said these ties could be further strengthened by enhancing parliament-to-parliament contacts.

Discussing the innovative initiatives introduced by the parliament of Pakistan, he said it had been at the forefront to guide the nation on the path of progress of development.

He informed that it was the first Green Parliament, the first in the region to establish a parliamentary caucus on child rights, first to open the doors for those who were real pillars of democracy like women, children, minorities, and the transgender community on the occasion of diamond jubilee celebration.

Pak-UK relations based on shared culture of democracy: NA Speaker

He also said this year parliament of Pakistan also enacted a record number of legislations besides fighting successfully the case of climate justice for Pakistan.

House of Commons Speaker Lindsay Hoyle expressed solidarity with the flood-affected people of Pakistan.

He said enhancing parliamentary contacts was pivotal to learning from parliamentary experiences.

He also said innovative parliaments were essential prerequisites to tackling global challenges.

PTI decides to hit the streets again

Bureau Report

LAHORE: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) has decided to hit the streets again as it has decided to give tough time to the PDM-led federal government.

As per details, Imran Khan has become active to give tough time to the federal government. The former prime minister has asked the party leaders to protest against the government.

The PTI leaders have been directed by former prime minister Imran Khan to devise a narrative on the increasing inflation, economic condition and early elections in the country. Apart from this, the PTI will

continue its door-to-door campaign. The local leadership has been directed to fill at least 1,000 forms in every UC of Punjab.

Last week, Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan asserted that strong institutions were imperative to curb corruption.

According to details, the former premier made these remarks while addressing a seminar as Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf issued white paper on country's state of the economy.

Imran Khan reiterated that political stability was a must to revive the country's 'deteriorating' economy, adding that 'transparent and immediate' elections were the only way out of the prevailing challenges.

Junaid Safdar denies involvement in politics for now

Web Desk

ISLAMABAD: The grandson of three-time Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif denied the rumours about joining the politics and insisted that he would not take part in any political activity for now.

Taking to Instagram, he said, "he has moved to Pakistan purely to be of service to his parents, family and community." He said at present, he did not have any interest in politics, adding he had missed the cold weather of Lahore and was loving it.

His explanation comes amid reports about his possible role in politics to help his mother-PML-N Senior Vice President Maryam

Nawaz-in the next elections. Maryam and her father have left for a week-long trip to Geneva and the visit coincides with Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's attendance at the UN-led donors conference, where



he would not take part in any political activity for now.

Earlier, Information Minister Marriyum Aurangzeb said Maryam Nawaz would be returning to Pakistan in the third week of January.

Karachi LG Polls: PPP leader says "not facing any challenge from JI, MQM-P"

Bureau Report

KARACHI: Pakistan People's Party leader and Sindh minister Saeed Ghani claimed that PPP will be successful to bring its mayor in Karachi local government (LG) polls and it is not facing any challenge from Jamaat-e-Islami (JI) and Muttahida Qaumi Movement Pakistan (MQM-P).

While addressing a press conference in Karachi, Saeed Ghani said that LG polls are going to be held in Karachi and Hyderabad on January 15. He rejected the impression of PPP facing any challenging situation from MQM-P and JI in the upcoming LG polls.

While elaborating on PPP's election campaign, he said that it was decided in a session today that a rally from Bilawal House to Star Gate will be organ-

ised on January 8. He added that PPP chooses the route due to the political event of Jamaat-e-Islami (JI) on the same date in Karachi.

He said that the provincial authorities are not authorised to change the delimitations nor the Sindh government can make any changes in the schedule for elections.

He said that Imran Khan made announcements of dissolving the assemblies without deliberations and failed to implement his plan. He slammed the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chief for doing nothing from July to January despite making tall claims.

Ghani predicted that Imran Khan's political blunders will end Punjab Chief Minister (CM) Pervaiz Elahi's government but the system will be continued uninterrupted.

30th anniversary of the heinous Sopore massacre carried out by India's occupying forces

ISLAMABAD : Legal Forum for Kashmir (LFK) launches an archival study based report titled, "Slaughter in Sopore" on 6th January 2023 to commemorate 30th anniversary of the heinous Sopore Massacre carried out by India's Occupying Forces.

The fact finding probe originally compiled by Institute of Kashmir studies-IKS is eye-opener to the world that India and its occupying forces have a history of perpetrating war crimes and crimes against humanity in IIOJK.

LFK has been archiving various investigative reports that have donned invisibility. Our aim is to bring such work into the public domain. This report on the Sopore massacre is an attempt to disseminate the defiant work carried out by IKS.

On the morning of January 6, 1993, Indian Occupying Forces of 94 Battalion



ion, Border Security Force (94 Bn. BSF), led by Commanding Officer S. Thangappan, shot and killed 46 people and injured dozens more.

In connection with the carnage at Sopore, the following facts about State terrorism have been brought to light by local and international human rights organizations:

(a) State terrorism seems to have crossed all limits when you find such persons among the victims whose age is more than 55 years. The victims include

an insane and sick man and a lady traveling in a bus.

(b) State terrorism has not spared even the State government employees. In the list of victims, most of the victims are government employees.

(c) Fourteen passengers traveling in the RTC bus JKY 1901, were killed mercilessly on the spot inside the bus. This is clearly an example of state terrorism. There is hardly any parallel to such brutalities.

(d) Most of the killed and injured persons comprise the victims who were busy in shops or at other business establishments or were out attending to their job. These victims were all civilians engaged in earning their day-to-day livelihood.

(e) It also reveals the extreme level of degradation to which the Indian force has fallen when one finds at least four

such victims who were shot at point-blank range and then thrown into the burning fire. Does humanity in the world find such an example elsewhere also?

(f) The State terrorism is so unparading that even the state's police personnel are not safe. One Mr. Mushtaq Ahmad Shah, s/o Ghulam Ahmad Shah, r/o Trehgam Kupwara, posted at Police Station Sopore, who, while on his duty of collecting the dead bodies of the victims of the state terror, was shot at, though he had a narrow escape and was only injured in the face.

(g) In the Sopore massacre the civilians killed were:

- Seven in the age group of 50 and Above
- Thirty-three in the age group of 20-50
- Five under the age of 20

Thousands of people took to the streets in a protest against the unrest



Adam Khan Wazir

WANA: On the invitation of "Waziristan Aman Olasi Pashoon" (Waziristan Peace People's Movement) in Wana, the district headquarter of South Waziristan Lower Tribal District, thousands of people came to the streets to establish peace against the ongoing unrest, target killing, robbery and kidnapping for ransom.

Thousands of people participated in the demonstration in connection with the establishment of peace. Political and social figures from across Waziristan, Balochistan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and various districts of the country participated in this demonstration for peace.

Local leaders of all political parties, PPP, ANP, JUI, JI, PTI, NDM, Pakhtunkhwa MAP, businessmen community and tribal elders to establish peace at the local level. PTM Chief Manzoor Ahmed Pashteen also participated in the same protest.

Local leaders of various political parties expressed their views. And presented these demands to the government on behalf of "Waziristan Aman Olasi Pashoon" (Peace People's Movement).

1: Peace is the responsibility of the civil government, if the police is required to conduct a search operation or action on wanted persons or in a place, then action should be taken according to the law. If the police need the FC or the army, the police can take help under Article 126 of the Order 2002.

2: The erstwhile FATA has been merged into Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, all the provisions of the 1973 Constitution are applicable to the areas of erstwhile FATA.

Therefore, apart from the constitution and law, peace committee, national army or 2007 agreement are not acceptable to us in any case.

3: Peace in South Waziristan Lower is subject to the restoration of the government writ, for the restoration of the government writ, a separate DPO, judges including all line departments offices should be transferred to Lower Waziristan.

4: Jamshed Wazir should be released immediately.

5: Police checkpoints should be established in small and big bazaars located at Spin, Azam Warsak, Shakai, Angoor Ada, Zarmelan, Ragzai police stations, to give legal powers and privileges to the police, to restore the closed jobs of the Khassadar force and to ensure the attendance of the existing police force.

6: FC should be deployed on emergency basis for the protection of police stations, police posts and police during patrolling.

7: Indiscriminate ban and strict action should be taken against government/non-government vehicles with black glass, violators should be arrested and presented in courts for legal action.

8: Indiscriminate action should be taken against drugs.

9: All types of armed organizations and miscreants should be banned.

10: To remove obstacles to trade on the Pak-Afghan border at Angoradah, and to allow Pakistani identity card holders to enter Angoradah Gate.

The protestors said that if our demands are not accepted, the sit-in and protest will continue.

Pakory and Nan

FAISALABAD: People are eating traditional food Pakory and Nan at Kachehri Bazaar in the city.



Photo: Online

FDA taking Mega initiatives to improve Faisalabad

Mian Rashid Asghar

FAISALABAD: The Deputy Commissioner, Imran Hamid Sheikh visited Faisalabad Development Authority (FDA) complex and took briefing about the performance of the FDA. Additional Deputy Commissioner Revenue Mudassar Ahmed Shah was also accompanying with him. FDA Director General, Dr Muhammad Zahid Ikrum and Additional Director General Abid Husain Bhatti welcomed the Deputy Commissioner and thanked for visiting FDA complex.

The Chief Engineer Mehr Ayub, Director Town Planning Raheel Zafar and other officers were also present on this occasion. FDA Director General, during his briefing apprised the Deputy Commissioner of the historical



background of FDA from its inception as Lyallpur Improvement Trust. He also informed the administrative set up and told that Urban Development wing, WASA and TEPA are functioning under this authority. He gave the details of functions, responsibilities, legal framework, rules & policies, development activities, source of income and budget estimates. He informed that 18 residential colonies and 17 commercial

markets are under control of FDA besides having the power of sanctioning to private housing schemes.

Adding further, he said that the 20 years comprising Faisalabad Master Plan had been approved as a result of five years efforts in this regard. The Director General highlighted about the new initiatives taken by the FDA and told that, all record is going to be digitalised for maintaining complete transparency.

He said added that, the mega project of sports complex is being completed at FDA City at the cost of Rs. 500.00 million for providing organised indoor sports facilities to the citizens.

He maintained that plant nurseries are also being developed by FDA besides growing the urban forest and plants orchards. He expressed that, a project of overseas block establishment comprising 624 kanals land is underway at FDA City and setting up of police station at FDA City has also been proposed while journalists' housing colony would also be established at FDA City. The FDA Director General identified some issues relating to local revenue department in connection with processing of cases of private housing schemes' approval.

PM AJK terms climate change as biggest threat the world has ever faced

Abdul Majeed Tahir

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Azad Jammu and Kashmir Sardar Tanveer Ilyas Khan has said that climate change was the greatest threat the world has ever faced.

Referring to the deadly floods that drowned half of Pakistan recently, the PM said that the floods that wreaked havoc in Pakistan last summer speak volumes about the catastrophic impacts of climate change.

He said that Azad Kashmir also faces severe climate challenges, due to its peculiar landscape.

Flash floods, cloudbursts

and rising temperatures in Azad Kashmir, he said was the result of fast melting glaciers.

"Melting of glaciers have a direct effect on the region's climate and environment", he said, adding that the Government of Pakistan should provide funds to the Government of Azad Kashmir so that it can deal with climate impacts effectively.

The PM said that the temperature of other cities, including the capital city Muzaffarabad, has increased rapidly in the past few years, which is having harmful effects on the population and environment.

He said that it was unfortunate that no lessons whatsoever has been learnt from the deadly earthquake of 2005.

"Rotten material is still being used in the construction process", he said, adding that all concerned departments and authorities have been strictly instructed that there will be no compromise on substandard constructions.

He said that Pakistan is one amongst the countries affected by climate change. "During the terrible earthquake of 2005, a large number of deaths were also caused due to poor construction style", he said.

He said that it was unfortunate that the political leadership at that time played politics to protect their interests when the whole world stood at our doors with millions of dollars in hand to build these broken and abandoned cities on modern foundations.

"We are grateful to all the countries and institutions that helped the Kashmiri people in the recovery and reconstruction after the earthquake of 2005", the PM said.

He said that the government was going to bring a big change in its policy to improve the existing cities and to build new cities.

Imported govt trying to delay general elections: Zulfi Bukhari



Raza Naqvi

ATTOCK : PTI Central Leader and Former SAPM Syed Zulfi Bukhari has said that imported govt is trying to delay general elections but Imran Khan will be victorious whenever elections will be held. He said this while addressing a gathering in village Chakki where a large number of people led by Union Council Chakki Vice Chairman Qazi Muhtiar announced to join PTI. Zulfi said that he would contest election from this constituency (NA 50 Attock) and will win and said that lot of development will take place in this constituency which is being ignored since independence.

He said, during PTI govt a large number of development schemes have been completed in this constituency at the cost of millions of rupees and recently tenders have been issued for the remaining schemes. Zulfi said, on his request Punjab govt has given approval for up gradation of two schools while the remaining schools will be upgraded soon.

Zulfi said, Khunda Jand road has already been carpeted benefiting thousands of people and thanked Qazi Muhtiar and his group for joining PTI. Meanwhile MPA Syed Yawar Abbas Bukhari, Former Federal Minister Syed Wajid Bukhari and Focal Person Syed Khawar Abbas Bukhari (all from PTI) called on Former Federal Minister Sheikh Aftab Ahmad (PMLN) and inquired about his health.

PCJCCI conducted a session with Qingdao Law Society to promote ADR



News Desk

LAHORE: "International arbitration through court is tiresome and time taking, which may be replaced with the Alternate Dispute Resolution (ADR) system to maintain cordial business relations with the friendly countries like China". An eminent lawyer Zafar Iqbal Kalanauri stated this as key speaker while addressing a Chinese delegation of Qingdao Law Society at Pakistan China Joint Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCJCCI) here on Thursday. The meeting was attended by Cheng Dezhi, President Qingdao Law Society, Li Huanting, Vice President of Qingdao Intermediate People's Court, Yin Jing, Vice President Qingdao Law Society, Ding Anhui, D.G of Qingdao Municipal Foreign Affairs Office, Wang Caiyun, Director of Fazhigu, SCODA, Yan Hong, Director Qingdao Law Society, Moazzam Ghurki, President PCJCCI, Hamza Khalid, Vice President PCJCCI, Daud Ahmed, E.C Member PCJCCI, Khalid Raffique Ch, E.C Member PCJCCI, Salahuddin Hanif, Secretary General PCJCCI and many other businessmen.

Zafar Iqbal Kalanauri said that the problems and disputes which can arise during huge investments between the two countries can be resolved through ADR system on the fast track.

Moazzam Ghurki, President PCJCCI added that through ADR

clause, the two parties can resolve their issues with the help of mediator, facilitator, he said and added that the ADR clause is one of the most popular modes in foreign countries to resolve business disputes.

Cheng Dezhi, President Qingdao Law Society appreciated the Pakistan China Joint Chamber for taking initiative to establish, Pakistan China ADR Centre for the businessmen of Pakistan and China. He added that PCJCCI had been working on different grounds which had created opportunities for the young entrepreneurs. He applauded PCJCCI's vibrant role in promoting bilateral trade and business between both the nations and welcomed PCJCCI decision to set up ADR Centre.

Hamza Khalid, Vice President PCJCCI said that Pakistan China Joint Chamber aims at capacity building of local entrepreneurs as per need of the ever-changing market trends. He also appreciated Zafar Iqbal Kalanauri for elaborating a tricky subject in a simple way by sharing his life-long experiences. Salahuddin Hanif, Secretary General PCJCCI said that we are endeavoring to build a better and prosperous future of Pakistan and for this we are planning to settle Pakistan China ADR Centre, for the convenience of Pakistani and Chinese businessmen. We are trying to encourage and train the young entrepreneurs of Pakistan with international and local laws of business, he added.



Islamabad 15° - 23° Clear

SERVICES

Namaz Timings

Fajr5:45 am
Zohr12:13 pm
Asr3:36 pm
Maghrib5:14 pm
Isha6:43 pm

EMERGENCY

Rescue (Police) 15
Bomb Disposal 15
Fire Services Rawalpindi/
Islamabad1122 & 16
Emergency Ambulance 1122 &
& Rescue Services 4451122
Motorway Police9266044
Motorway Police9270601-20

Women Police Stations

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Wapda Islamabad9217579-80
Sui Gas Complaint119, 9272249
Wasa Water Tank
Rawalpindi0331-5022125

Chairman JKSM remembers martyrs of Sopore massacre, pays glorious tributes



Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD : Chairman of Jammu & Kashmir Salvation Movement (JKSM) Altaf Ahmed Bhat while remembering the Martyrs of Sopore Massacre of 6th January 1993 said that 30 years passed but still the victims of the worst kind of state terrorism are waiting for justice, which is being denied by the biased legal system supported by an aggressive and fascist indian government.

On 6th of January 1993, the Indian Occupation forces carried out Sopore Massacre, killing innocent civilians, setting shops and colleges on fire, just to punish and break the will of the people of Kashmir.

According to International print and electronic media, more than 75 lives, hundreds of shops and residential houses were burnt, is glaring example of a planned genocide by Indian occupational forces.

Indian Border Security Force (BSF) personals killed 75 civilians and burnt around 120 houses and 350 shops, including Women's Degree College and famous Samad talkies, were gutted in the firestorm.

Chairman JKSM Altaf Ahmed Bhat added that the massacre is seen as one of the worst massacres Indian forces carried out in Jammu & Kashmir's history.

The 'TIME MAGAZINE' had titled the news report on January 18, 1993 as 'Blood Tide Rising'.

He added that 'The horrors of Sopore Massacre are still haunting the people.

ECP summons Imran Khan on Jan 11

City Reporter

ISLAMABAD: The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) on Friday summoned Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chairman and former Prime Minister Imran Khan to appear before it on January 11 in a case which seeks to remove him from the party's chairmanship.

The commission sent the notice to Imran's listed address of Bani Gala in Islamabad and directed him to appear before it next Wednesday at 10am or send a lawyer to represent him.

The ECP said Imran Khan should clarify his position. The notification gave references of the ECP and Supreme Court verdicts. The ECP said the former prime minister was disqualified for misstatement regard-



ing his assets.

On Thursday, the Lahore High Court (LHC) had barred the Election Commission of Pakistan from proceeding to strip Imran Khan of his position as chairman of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) after his disqualification in the Toshakhana reference.

A high court bench issued the order a day after the PTI chief filed a petition against the

ECP's proceedings. He argued that the electoral body was exceeding its powers by trying to remove him as the party head, adding that the ECP issued him the notice "illegally". The petition maintained that the proceedings were launched against him illegally as Mr Khan had declared his assets before the ECP.

It requested the LHC to suspend the ECP notice sent to Imran Khan as well as stop it from taking further action before the final verdict.

Last month, the ECP initiated proceedings to remove Mr Khan as the PTI chief following his disqualification in the Toshakhana reference. In October last, the ECP disqualified Imran Khan under Article 63(D)(p) for making "false statements and incorrect declaration" in the Toshakhana case.

Foggy and cloudy weather

ISLAMABAD: Motorists on their way during foggy and cloudy weather at Islamabad Highway in Federal Capital.



Photo: Online

PTA to block content on social media against Pakistan actors

News Desk

KARACHI : Pakistan actor Kubra Khan moved to Sindh High Court (SHC) against YouTuber Adil Raja over spreading defamatory rumours.

The SHC Sindh High Court ordered Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) and Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) to completely block all content posted on social media against Mehwish Hayat, Kubra Khan, Mahira Khan and Sajal Aly.

The application filed by Kubra Khan stated that the YouTuber Major (R) Adil Farooq Raja humiliated and defamed four actresses by making false accusations.

She added the fake and fabricated allegations have damaged her dignity and honour. Adil Farooq later posted another explanatory video and drew back from his earlier stance.



They also stated that FIA and PTA have been approached to remove the defamatory content but no action has been taken against YouTube so far.

The SHC ordered the PTA and the FIA to submit an explanatory answer at next the hearing.

Sharing the petition on Instagram, Kubra wrote, "The past four days have been so difficult for me and my family that I don't think I'll ever be able to explain



in words. I couldn't wrap my head around as to why anyone would do this to me... even after it was clarified that my name or initials were misinterpreted why I was still getting bullied so ferociously. Even before I reacted... why my pictures were being used in such an inappropriate manner and then I realized... Because no one's ever put a stop to it. Because we're so used to being quiet. Until this story die, another arises to do the same

damage just because we didn't speak up. But enough is enough."

She added, "So This is me, exercising my constitutional rights as a Pakistani and relying on our law to protect my dignity and this is me saying what I want to say for all the hard working independent woman out there who are insulted daily. I'm not gonna stand here and say I stood up for every woman out there but I will say that I stood up so that from now on if a situation like this arises, every woman and man out there knows that standing up for yourself is your RIGHT!"

She concluded her post saying, "So now... I leave it in your hands, our law Implementers and God's Hands. I rest my case, K.K Out."

Several Pakistan celebrities backed her in the comment section and extended their support to the "Sinf-e-Ahan" actor.

NDMA issues advisory for preparedness measures amid rain, snowfall prediction

News Desk

ISLAMABAD : The National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) here on Friday has issued a detailed advisory for the nationwide preparedness measures to cope with rain and snowfall prediction advising the provinces to ensure mass awareness and sensitization of the travellers and tourists to the high risk areas.

The NDMA advisory mentioned the Pakistan Meteorological Department (PMD) forecast citing that a westerly wave was likely to enter North Balochistan on January 6th (evening/night) and was likely to grip upper and Northern parts of the country from January 6th to 9th. Under the influence of this weather system, following events were forecast as light to moderate rain (with snowfall over the hills) was expected in Quetta, Zhob, Barkhan, Ziarat, Nokkundi, Dalbandin, Harmai, Qilla Saifullah, Qilla Abdullah, Chaman and Pishin on January 7th and 8th.

However, moderate rain (with

snowfall over the hills) was also expected in Murree, Galliyat, Kashmir (Neelum valley, Muzaffarabad, Poonch, Hattian, Bagh, Haveli, Sudhanoti, Kotli, Bhimber, Mirpur), Gilgit Baltistan (Diamir, Astore, Ghizer, Skardu, Hunza, Gilgit, Ghanche, Shigar), Chitral, Dir, Swat, Malakand, Kohistan, Mansehra and Abbotabad from January 7th to 9th.

The weather prediction may also cause light rain expected in Islamabad, Potohar region, Charsada, Bajaur, Kurram, Waziristan and Kohat during January 7th and 8th.

Keeping in view the weather situation, all provincial disaster management authorities (PDMAs), Gilgit Baltistan Disaster Management Authority (GBDMA), State Disaster Management Authority (SDMA) and Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) Administration, National Highway Authority (NHA), National Highway and Motorway Police (NH&MP), Frontier Works Organization (FWO), Rescue 1122, line departments, Ministries and federal agen-

cies were required to undertake measures as per respective mandate.

The NDMA advised that it was to be ensured by all concerned in addition to measures deemed appropriate as per on ground situation to make ensure widespread circulation of advisories and alerts to raise awareness and sensitize travellers and tourists. The concerned departments were to prepare general and area or region specific awareness campaigns and ensure wide spread propagation of likely threats and hazards. Moreover, they should also engage local communities at traditionally dangerous and hazard prone sites to enable round the clock monitoring and establish feedback mechanism for early warnings and alerts for at-risk population.

It also added that the PDMAs and DDMA to arrange and preplace necessary inventory and other essentials at strategic locations or vulnerable choke points in coordination with NH&MP,

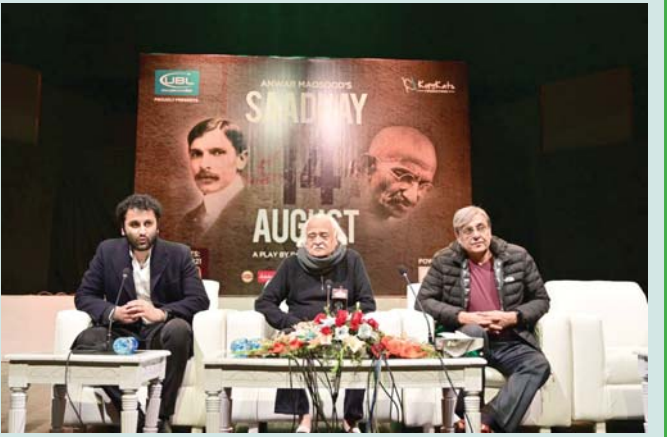
NHA, FWO, local Construct and Works Departments (C&W), Rescue 1122 and line departments.

The travellers on Provincial and National Highways in at-risk/affected areas be forewarned of adverse conditions and may be detoured to safe waiting areas under guidance of respective PDMAs, Local Authorities, National Highway and Motorway Police, LEAs, etc., ensure immediate stocking of basic commodities especially in regions that get cut-off during winters snowfall, ensure round the clock monitoring of situation through emergencies operation centers (EOCs) with regular feedback to provincial and national EOCs (PEOCs and NEOC respectively).

The tourists, visitors, and travelers to check PMD Weather Forecast for information on fog, snowfall, rain, high flows in nullahs and landslides etc. to assess road conditions from control rooms, helplines, websites, social media platforms of NH&MP, NHA, FWO,

Saadhay 14 August:

All set to bring laughter and satire to Islamabad



Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Saadhay 14 August is all set to begin performances in Islamabad after successfully finishing 100 shows in Karachi. The play, which has been written by the eminent Anwar Maqsood and directed by Daawar Mehmood, was able to gather audiences from all walks of life, and individuals of all ages and genders. It drew packed houses from the first performance until the very last.

The famous play will be performed for the first time in Islamabad on January 7, 2023. The play, Saadhay 14 August which features some of the most well-known national figures from both the past and present, is a part of the trilogical series that was first staged as Pawanay 14 August, ten years ago. The series' final chapter, Saadhay 14 August commemorates its conclusion. The play's legendary writer, Anwar Maqsood states "This series is really close to my heart and was made while keeping something positive while also considering the current plight of the nation. We expect that Saadhay 14 August will receive the same level of support in Islamabad as it has in Karachi."

According to M. Ahmed Shah, President-Arts Council of Pakistan, "Anwar Maqsood has actually brought theatre back to Pakistan, and when it is his screenplay, we are sure it will be adored and admired by the public and would draw huge crowds to the theatre."

When questioned about his expectations for Islamabad, director Daawar Mehmood said: "Like Karachi, we hope to exceed the expectations of the crowd in Islamabad. The play has all the necessary ingredients for a successful theatrical presentation, including a superb script written by none other than Anwar Maqsood, outstanding acting, scenes and sets that were carefully built with attention to detail of each region being portrayed."

From January 7th till February 7th 2023, the team will start performances in Islamabad. The play Saadhay 14 August is the perfect example of how a serious issue can be handled in a light-hearted, entertaining, and humorous manner while still capturing the audience's attention.

Poultry Association forecasts price of chicken reaching Rs1,000/kg



News Desk

ISLAMABAD: The chairman of the Pakistan Poultry Association, Chaudhry Muhammad Ashraf, has expressed concern that the price of chicken could rise to Rs1,000 per kilogram in the near future due to a shortage of feed, an important dietary staple in Pakistan.

Ashraf reported that the price of broiler chicken is currently around Rs500-600 per kilogram in Karachi. He also mentioned that approximately 12 containers holding 0.75 million tons of soybean and canola are being held at the port due to technical issues from the government, despite payments being made.

The poultry association chairman further said that the poultry industry typically keeps a supply of feed on hand for 15 days to a month, but that supply has now been exhausted.

"The lack of soybean and canola availability has caused problems for feed manufacturers, who have informed farmers that they do not have the necessary products available," he added.

Ashraf went on to state that the current increase in chicken prices is due to a decrease in feed supply, and warned that there will likely be a significant shortage of chicken in the market in the coming days, with prices potentially rising to 1,000 Pakistani rupees per kilogram in the current month.

In response to the issue, the Pakistan Poultry Association decided to hold a protest demonstration to urge the government to resolve the issue of soybean imports.

The association stated that the delay in clearing these vessels has led to an increase in poultry meat prices and has caused fears of the potential closure of poultry farms in the future.

NIH free diagnostic services continue in flood-hit areas

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD : The National Institute of Health's (NIH) have continued its free mobile diagnostic services in flood-affected areas to support locals in case of any outbreak of diseases.

According to official sources, testing facilities were available in those locations where access to testing was limited and now citizens could have free testing services for Influenza, Malaria, Dengue, and SARS-CoV-2.

The free diagnostic system was handed over by the NIH for flood-hit areas while two mobile diagnostic labs were deputed in the flood-affected areas of Sindh.

The sources said the mobile labs were parked in Badin and Larkana where citizens could submit their blood samples for investigation. A three-member team of NIH, including a doctor and two molecular biologists, were deputed to run the labs at Badin and also they trained district health lab staff on the operations of the mobile lab.

The National Institute of Health had provided a total of three mobile laboratories to Punjab, Sindh, and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa to strengthen the capacity to diagnose COVID-19 and other communicable diseases. "These mobile laboratories will strengthen the diagnostic capacity of the provincial health departments, and enable the government to respond quickly and effectively in hard-to-reach remote areas during emergencies, or an outbreak and epidemics", the sources added.



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Excessive pesticides usage hazardous to human health, soil fertility

Aatif Ismail

Excessive use of pesticides and insecticides in agriculture poses serious hazards to human health, soil fertility, and the overall environment of the country's food basket and hub of agriculture in South Punjab.

Both male and female field workers are usually exposed to this phenomenon with 70% population of South Punjab living in rural areas and the majority among them directly associated with the agriculture sector.

According to South Punjab Agriculture Secretariat, around five million farmers, the majority among them women, are used to working in agriculture fields to lend a hand to their men and eke out earnings for fighting abject poverty.

Being frail in comparison with lower immunity levels than men, these women workers are more exposed to pesticide hazards than men due to direct contact with plants of different crops especially cotton as they have to stay at cotton fields for hours during picking season.

The Agriculture Secretariat of South Punjab, a few months

back, conducted a survey and then lab analysis to determine the presence of chemical pesticide residue in cotton fields and the results were alarming.

Three parts of cotton bolls (peel, lint, and seed), collected from the pesticides usage fields after analysis at Chemical Pesticide Residue Lab, Kala Shah Kaku, revealed the presence of an abundant amount of Triazophos and Gamma-cyhalothrin in samples.

According to European standards, the permissible residue limit of Triazophos (pesticide) should be 0.01 mg/kg but in Multan's sample, it was 20.34 mg/kg besides the abundant presence of Gamma-cyhalothrin as well.

Medical practitioners see the lethal impacts on human beings exposed to pesticides and insecticides fearing these people suffer from unconsciousness, lung and liver complications, and cancer if the disease gets chronic.

"There are two complications emerging from excessive use of chemical pesticides - acute and chronic," said Dr Waqas Arqam. "In the acute form, the farmers become unconscious while spraying or visiting farms soon after spray. In the chronic form, they suffer from lethal diseases lung and liver problems, and finally

cancer."

He said a good number of pesticide-affected patients are brought to emergencies during the cotton season. "Excessive chemical pesticides also cause contact-dermatitis leading to itching, bleeding, infection and many other complications."

He said, after continuous contact with pesticides the residues start accumulating in their bodies, and a particular level of accumulation, causes cancer, liver complications, and infertility, especially in women farmers. "Sometimes, this poison travels to their stomachs when they eat food with unwashed hands."

"Women are more vulnerable to this phenomenon that results in stunting growth, liver and breast cancer, infertility, and skin complications," Dr Waqas said.

He called upon the agricultural department to raise awareness among farmers on the safer use of pesticides and if possible to shift to bio-pesticides to secure crops and human beings from poisonous pesticides.

Although the Central Cotton Research Institute CCRI prepared a cotton picker machine and numbers of farmers are shifting to bio-pesticides under Integrated Pest Management (IPM) plan yet these practices are not very common and scores of poor

laborers are still exposed to health hazards.

"Relentless use of chemical pesticide was damaging human health, land fertility, and environment as a whole," commented Malik Arif, a progressive farmer from Nawabpur. "The cotton picker can be used only on thick cotton crops and we have not yet this culture in our agriculture."

Therefore, he suggested promoting bio-pesticides on a larger scale and curtailing the use of chemical pesticides for the safety of people and land fertility.

"Promoting the use of bio-pesticides and encouraging farmers by the South Punjab Agriculture Secretariat to opt for it under the Integrated Pest Management model is an excellent attempt," he remarked.

He said the IPM model remained successful in health security, cutting the input cost and enhancing productivity when it was applied on nearly 500 plots. "But, it can be more beneficial if reaches all the farmers."

He said farmers can prepare bio-pesticides by soaking neem tree, aak, kortuma, tobacco, and moringa in specific amount of water for 10 hours and then boiling it. After boiling, more water can be mixed in it and the spray is ready for crops.

Another progressive farmer Muhammad Afzal cultivates chemical pesticide-free crops at 70 acres and was getting handsome production.

"Bio-pesticides and bio-fertilizers had improved the fertility of my land. I get as much produce by using these products as others get by using chemical pesticides," he said. "Some farmers are in haste for results. But, if they are consistent, they can improve production gradually at low cost."

He also suggested an aggressive campaign to promote the use of bio-pesticides and to promote organic crops.

Dr Ameen, an official of the agriculture department mentioned efforts being made to promote the use of organic pesticides. "This is a cheaper mode to kill pests. But, as the farmers desire quick results and enhanced production, they hesitate to opt for it."

He regretted that excessive use of pesticides and fertilizers leaves residues in soil, water, and air and has adverse effects on human health and non-target organisms like pollinators, parasitoids, predators, and wild animals also.

In this scenario, it is direly needed to promote the culture of healthy farming to secure our coming generations and protect our environment.

Tourists advised to take precautionary steps while visiting Murree

Commissioner, Rawalpindi Division, Saqib Manan has advised the tourists visiting Murree and adjoining areas to take precautionary measures.

According to the Commissioner Office spokesman, Saqib directed the authorities concerned to utilize all available resources to facilitate the tourists in Murree.

All snow removal machinery should be kept operational, besides arranging salt sprinkler machines and ensuring presence of the required staff, the commissioner said.

The spokesperson said that a control room had also been established at Jinnah Hall Murree, on the special directives of the commissioner. "The tourists, in case of any emergency, can contact the control room on 051-9269015, 051-9269016, 051-9269018", he added.

The representatives of all the departments concerned would remain present in the control room, which would work round the clock under the supervision of the Assistant Commissioner, Murree.

According to Additional Deputy Commissioner, Murree, Ahmed Hassan Ranjha, the district administration has set up special facilitation centers at 13 sensitive points to assist tourists and respond to any emergency.

Tehsil Headquarters Hospital, CMH Murree and basic health centers also finalized arrangements for the snowfall season besides setting up two health camps at Lower Topka and Bansra Gali, for the convenience of the tourists, the ADC added.

He said that strict action would be taken against the violators. Due to the huge influx of tourists towards Murree, the district administration and the City Traffic Police, Rawalpindi had issued an advisory, appealing to the citizens to observe lane discipline.

According to the advisory, the tourists are requested to use petrol-based vehicles and strictly prohibited to use CNG-based vehicles which may cause problems in cars due to extreme cold in the snow. Families with infants and asthma patients are also advised to avoid travelling to Murree.

The visitors are advised to wear warm clothes and avoid unnecessary travel after 8:00 pm. Tourists are also advised to keep their vehicles' fuel tanks full.

The advisory further says that turn on your emergency lights and other lights of the cars, as well and try to put a metal chain on one tyre.

The CTP spokesman said that special traffic wardens had also been deployed at the main sites of Murree to ensure smooth traffic flow.

He requested the tourists to follow the advisory to avoid any kind of inconvenience. The Tourism Police and the special squads were also directed to make coordinated efforts to provide the best facilities to the tourists, he added.

Cartoon by Amjad Rasmi.
(Courtesy of Asharq Al-Awsat)



HEC Scholarships- Capitalizing nation's real resource

Qaiser-u-Zaman

Human capital has always been the best-ever resource for any country to glitter on international horizons by taking strides in different arena of life and taking nation to new heights of progress and self-sufficiency.

For this purpose, the educated youth is inevitable and every nation diligently focuses this area by creating more opportunities for its students within the country and at the best universities across the globe.

Higher Education Commission (HEC) has performed valuably in recent years in offering various international scholarship schemes to make education accessible for students, particularly those from far-flung and less privileged areas.

"Over 40% of the government's total investment in higher education sector has been on human resource development and we have maintained the most transparent and cautious approach for selection of students" said Chairman Higher Education Commission Dr. Mukhtar Ahmad.

"With the investment of \$33.2 million, over 6000 need-based scholarships have been awarded making it one of the largest USAID funded scholarship program of Pakistan," the HEC Chairman said. "Under this program, 60% scholarships have been awarded to female students".

Amidst challenge of keeping up with international education standards, the HEC has a gigantic task ahead to secure more scholarships for Pakistani students enabling them to pursue higher studies at the best universities of the world.

"We are also endeavoring for more

scholarships for Pakistani students at the University of Oxford," Dr Mukhtar said as he mentioned to facilitating institution-to-institution collaboration in academic and research areas with currently 22 Pakistani students availing scholarships for higher studies at Oxford University.

Pakistan-UK Education Gateway can prove to be another potential way forward for students amidst some practical measures like sponsorship for mobility of students and scholars. The HEC has also signed a Document of Understanding (DoU) with the Edith Cowan University (ECU), Australia to jointly work under a collaborative arrangement on various academic and research areas.

Under the agreement, ECU will admit up to 15 HEC's PhD scholars - who meet the HEC scholarship criteria and the normal selection criteria for entry to an ECU PhD course including academic and English language entry requirements as indicated on the ECU website - per year for five years, starting in 2023.

Major research areas covered under the agreement include Engineering; Arts and Humanities; Education; Medical and Health Sciences; Science; Nursing and Midwifery and Business and Law.

"Australia is keen in increasing number of Pakistani students and scholars. Around 100,000 Pakistanis are currently residing in Australia to pursue their higher education and are extended all necessary support," Dr Mukhtar said.

According to HEC Scholarships Department, during 2023 total 508 scholars are preceding foreign countries on scholarships under HEC's foreign scholarships schemes. They are from different level of Higher education including 246 PhD, 116

MS/BS, 102 IRSIP (6 Months) and 44 Post Doctorate.

Currently, a total number of 2,812 scholars are studying at foreign universities under various scholarship schemes including 1760 students enrolled in PhD, 857 in MS/BS, 130 in IRSIP (6 Months) and 65 in Post Doctorate. Most of foreign scholarships are offered in seven disciplines including Agriculture and Veterinary Sciences, Arts and Humanities, Biological and Medical Sciences, Business Education, Engineering and Technology and Physical and Social Sciences.

"On directives of the present government, the HEC has taken numerous steps to increase number of foreign scholarships for Pakistani students," said a senior official at HEC. "These initiatives include 75th National Top Talent Scholarship Program aimed at increasing the number of Pakistani scholars in World's Top 20 Universities. The government of Hungary has also increased number of scholarships for Pakistani students."

The HEC offers international scholarship at various educational levels as per selection criteria spelled out in relevant PC-1 of schemes, available on HEC website www.hec.gov.pk.

The Commission also offers international scholarships through various scholarship projects and programs including Overseas Scholarships Phase-III, HRDI - UESTP Overseas Scholarships, US-Pakistan Knowledge Corridor, HEC-USAID Fulbright Scholarship Program Phase-III, Post-Doc Fellowship Program Phase-III and Academic and Research Linkages with different countries and agencies under Bilateral Agreements. The scholarships are also being offered to Nationals of OIC, Commonwealth, SIDS and Hungary to Study at Different Pakistani Universities.

Is China sharing enough Covid-19 information?

AP Research

As Covid-19 rips through China, other countries and the World Health Organization are calling on its government to share more comprehensive data on the outbreak. Some even say many of the numbers it's reporting are meaningless.

Without basic data like the number of deaths, infections and severe cases, governments elsewhere have instituted virus testing requirements for travelers from China. Beijing has said the measures aren't science-based and threatened countermeasures.

Of greatest concern is whether new variants will emerge from the mass infection unfolding in China and spread to other countries. The delta and omicron variants developed in places that also had large outbreaks, which can be a breeding ground for new variants. Here's a look at what's going on with China's Covid-19 data:

What Is China Sharing And Not Sharing?

Chinese health authorities publish a daily count of new cases, severe cases and deaths, but those numbers include only officially confirmed cases and use a very narrow definition of Covid-related deaths.

China is most certainly doing their own sampling studies but just not sharing them, said Ray Yip, who founded the US Centers for Disease Control office in China.

Since the pandemic started, China has shared 4,144 sequences with GISAID, a global platform for coronavirus data. That's only 0.04% of its reported number of cases - a rate more than 100 times less than the United States and nearly four times less than neighboring Mongolia.

What Is Known And What Can Be Figured Out?

So far, no new variants have shown up in the sequences shared by China. The versions fueling infections in China "closely resemble" those that have been seen in other parts of the world since July, GISAID said. Dr. Gagandeep Kang, who studies viruses at the

Christian Medical College of Vellore in India, agreed, saying there wasn't anything particularly worrisome in the data so far.

That hasn't stopped at least 10 countries - including the US, Canada, Japan, South Korea, India, Australia, the UK, France, Spain and Italy - from announcing virus testing requirements for passengers from China. The European Union strongly encouraged all its member states to do so this week.

"We don't need China to study that, all we have to do is to test all the people coming out of China," said Yip, the former public health official.

Canada and Belgium said they will look for viral particles in wastewater on planes arriving from China. "It is like an early warning system for authorities to anticipate whether there's a surge of infections coming in," said Dr. Khoo Yoong Khean, a scientific officer at the Duke-NUS Centre of Outbreak in Singapore.

Is China Sharing Enough Information?

Chinese officials have repeatedly said they are sharing information, pointing to the sequences given to GISAID and meetings with the WHO.

But WHO officials have repeatedly asked for more - not just on genetic sequencing but also on hospitalizations, ICU admissions and deaths. WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus expressed concern this week about the risk to life in China.

"Data remains essential for WHO to carry out regular, rapid and robust risk assessments of the global situation," the head of the U.N. health agency said.

The Chinese government often holds information from its own public, particularly anything that reflects negatively on the ruling Communist Party. State media have shielded away from the dire reports of a spike in cremations and people racing from hospital to hospital to try to get treatment as the health system reaches capacity. Government officials have accused foreign media of hyping the situation.

Khean, noting that South Africa's early warning about omicron led to bans on travelers from the country, said there is a need to foster an environment where countries can share data without f

UN slams attack on police van guarding polio workers in D.I. Khan

News Desk

UNITED NATIONS : The United Nations Thursday denounced as "despicable" the gun-and-grenade attack on a police van guarding polio workers in Dera Ismail Khan, a district of Pakistan's Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, in which five policemen were reportedly injured.

"It's not the first time that we've seen attacks on health workers; It's not the first time we've seen attacks on people trying to do polio vaccination in Pakistan and other places in the world," the UN Secretary-General's spokesman, Stephane Dujarric, said in response to a question at the regular noon briefing at



UN Headquarters in New York.

He added, "Sometimes we're faced with a situation where you really run out of words, but it is despicable to target and attack people who are going out in communities in extremely challenging circumstances, trying to protect the lives of infants and babies from a preventable disease that is almost wiped out; except for a handful of countries, and that all too often is due to a security situation where people actively work against health workers."

Pakistan is one of the only two countries — the other being Afghanistan — where polio is still prevalent despite relentless vaccination drives.



High winds, heavy rain keep Riyadh residents at home.

Ukraine's Zelenskiy thanks Scholz for defence package, discusses 'further cooperation'



News Desk

KYIV: President Volodymyr Zelenskiy said he had spoken by phone to German Chancellor Olaf Scholz on Friday and thanked him for a "powerful defense package" that would help Ukraine fend off Russian troops and defend its cities.

He also said they had discussed further defence cooperation but gave no details.

In a joint statement with Washington on Thursday, Berlin said it would provide Kyiv with Marder Infantry Fighting Vehicles and a Patriot air-defence system.

"I thanked (Scholz) for the powerful defense package, including several dozen Marder vehicles and the Patriot system. We discussed further cooperation to strengthen the Ukrainian army," Zelenskiy wrote on Twitter.

He and other top Ukrainian officials have repeatedly called for heavier and more advanced weapons systems following Russia's invasion, now in its eleventh month.

France also announced this week that it was sending light AMX-10 RC armoured combat vehicles.

Zelenskiy also said on Friday that he had met two U.S. senators in Kyiv, Jack Reed and Angus King, to discuss the battlefield situation and "the risks of potential escalation", hours after a Russian-declared unilateral ceasefire began.

Zelenskiy called the ceasefire a "manipulation".

Germany wants to deliver around 40 Marder vehicles to Ukraine



News Desk

ISLAMABAD: Germany said on Friday it wants to deliver around 40 Marder infantry fighting vehicles to Ukraine before the end of March, and Vice Chancellor Robert Habeck said Berlin could ultimately send its entire functioning fleet of the weapons.

Germany announced on Thursday it would provide Marders to Ukraine, ramping up military support for Kyiv to repel Russian forces. The announcement came on the same day that the United States pledged Bradley Fighting Vehicles, and a day after a similar announcement from France.

Government spokesman Steffen Hebestreit said a Patriot anti-aircraft missile system from army stocks will also be delivered to Ukraine in the first quarter. Washington has also offered Patriots to Ukraine.

Training on the Marder vehicle is to take place in Germany and last about eight weeks, Hebestreit added.

Speaking in Brevik, Norway, Vice Chancellor Habeck said Germany should send "all Marders that are operational" to Ukraine.

Habeck did not specify how many vehicles this would be. Germany once fielded hundreds of Marders but has been phasing out the Cold War-era weapons in favour of newer Pumas which it has purchased to replace them.

Thursday's announcement came after Chancellor Olaf Scholz faced a chorus of calls from within his three-way coalition to beef up military support for Ukraine, following France's announcement it was sending AMX-10 RC combat vehicles.

Scholz has ramped up defence spending and sent aid and weapons to Ukraine since the invasion, but has sometimes hesitated before supplying powerful weapons for fear of risking direct conflict with Russia.

He has also made it clear that he did not want to go it alone on sending heavy weapons to Ukraine and that he would coordinate deliveries with other members of the NATO alliance.

Digital advertising trucks flash Kashmir freedom messages in New York, Washington

Spokesman Report

NEW YORK : The World Kashmir Awareness Forum (WKAF), a Washington-based advocacy body, rented digital advertising trucks — one in New York and the other in Washington — that displayed razor-sharp messages calling on the United Nations to implement its fulfill its resolutions pledging to the people of Jammu and Kashmir their right to self-determination, as they moved around the two cities.

The electronic screens on the trucks carry messages such as: "UN obligated to implement its resolutions on Kashmir"; "Land grab operation in Kashmir is economic terrorism"; "Freedom for all: Freedom for Kashmir"; "Stop Indian military & demographic terrorism in Kashmir"; "Indian occupied Kashmir: Most densely militarized settler colony" and "Hold India accountable for war crimes in Kashmir".

The trucks appeared on the roads of New York and Washington on January 5,

the 'Right to Self-Determination Day'.

"Digital advertising trucks are considered to be the most effective way to spread a message as the brightly lit words on the screens catch attention of the people walking on the streets and those coming in and out of government and commercial buildings," Dr. Ghulam Nabi Fai, Chairman of the World Forum for Peace & Justice, said in a statement.

The route of digital truck in Washington included: All federal buildings, including the State Department; the Capitol Hill; Library of Congress; The Washington Monument; The White House; foreign embassies, various Museums; Lincoln Memorial; Washington National Cathedral; the Indian Embassy; the World Bank and IMF. And in New York, The United Nations headquarters, offices of various UN Missions, Freedom Tower, Indian Mission; Battery Park, Central Park, and Times Square.

Dr. Ghulam N. Mir, Chairman of the Kashmir Dias-

pora Coalition (KDC) and President of the World Kashmir Awareness Forum expressed solidarity with Kashmiris across the globe holding rallies on Thursday, to mark the Day, demanding implementation of the resolution adopted on January 5, 1949. That resolution mandates a free and unfettered plebiscite in Kashmir. The denial of the right to self-determination, Dr. Mir added, has brought both India and Pakistan to the brink of nuclear catastrophe.

In his remarks, Dr. Ghulam Nabi Fai said that on this Day, the United Nations Commission for India and Pakistan (UNCIP) worked out the concrete terms of settlement in close and continuous consultation with both India and Pakistan. As both governments formally accepted the commission's proposals, they constituted an international agreement as binding as a treaty.

A ceasefire was immediately enforced. The Commission then started negotiations to draw up a plan for

the withdrawal of Indian and Pakistan armies from the State in a manner and sequence that would not cause disadvantage to either side or imperil the freedom of the plebiscite.

Progress towards a solution was, however, blocked, Dr. Fai added, by India's refusal to accept that the withdrawal of forces on the two sides should be balanced and synchronized. Recognizing that its people would never freely vote accession to India, it contrived excuse after excuse to frustrate a plebiscite.

Dr. Imtiaz Khan, Professor at George Washington University Medical Center, said that under the 1949 UN resolution it was agreed that the question of accession of the State of Jammu and Kashmir to India or Pakistan will be decided through democratic method of a free and impartial plebiscite. Subsequently, UN Security Council reiterated the right of self-determination of Kashmiris in various resolutions, including those of 1951 and 1957.

Japan minister calls for new world order to counter rise of authoritarian regimes



News Desk

WASHINGTON : Japan's trade and industry minister said on Thursday post-Cold War free trade and economic inter-dependence had bolstered authoritarian regimes and the United States and like-minded democracies should counter them with a "new world order."

"Authoritarian countries have amassed tremendous power, both economically and militarily," Japan's Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry Yasutoshi Nishimura said in a speech at the Center for Strategic and International Studies in Washington.

"We must rebuild a world order based on the fundamental values of freedom, democracy, human rights and the rule of law," he added.

Nishimura spoke ahead of a visit to Washington next week by Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida for talks expected to cover issues including Ukraine, North Korea and China's tensions with Taiwan. That summit will be preceded by talks between defense and foreign ministers of the two countries.

Kishida said this week he would discuss Tokyo's new security policy after Washington's key ally in countering China's growing might in Asia last month unveiled its biggest military build-up since World War Two.

Nishimura's call to arms comes amid growing concern after Russia's invasion of Ukraine that Beijing and Moscow will use their control over energy resources and sway over manufacturing supply chains to stop the United States, Japan, Europe and others from opposing their diplomatic and military goals.

Leaders from the Group of Seven industrialized nations are likely to discuss how to respond to economic coercion when they meet in May in the Japanese city of Hiroshima, Nishimura said.

"We might need to make preparations to identify the choke points of countries wanting to engage in coercion and then take countermeasures if necessary," he said.

Nishimura warned that democracies need to protect their industrial power and guard against the loss of technologies, particularly those that could be diverted to military use.

MFA and Expatriates: calls for binding mechanisms to ensure the protection

Web Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates of the State of Palestine welcomes the positions of states, and regional and international groups in the emergency session of the Security Council that was held yesterday, which clearly affirmed the rejection of attempts or prejudice to the existing historical, legal and political reality of the occupied city of Jerusalem, especially the holy sites, foremost of which are the Noble Sanctuary, the blessed Al-Aqsa Mosque, and expressed its expression Its rejection of illegal unilateral measures and affirmed its adherence to the two-state solution and its keenness to launch a real peace process leading to the embodiment

of the State of Palestine with East Jerusalem as its capital. The Ministry also welcomes the international consensus that emerged during the preparation for the session, during it, and after it to reject the extremist Minister Bin Ghafir's storming of Al-Aqsa Mosque, and considered it incitement and provocation, which falls within the framework of his positions aimed at changing the bleak situation. The Ministry affirms its continuous demand to translate these positions into actions and measures to ensure that the violations of the Israeli colonial occupation and the crimes of Ben Gvir and his followers are not repeated, and that the legal and historical status does not change Christian and Islamic sanctities. The

Ministry thanks all brotherly and friendly countries, and regional groups that contributed to the success of holding this session in this exceptional circumstance. The two brotherly countries also thank the United Arab Emirates and the People's Republic of China for their adoption and support of the joint Palestinian-Jordanian request.

The Ministry expresses its absolute rejection of the misleading narrative of the colonial occupation authority that came from its representative in the United Nations, and believes that it is a clear attempt against the international system, in order to delegitimize the international body that granted it legitimacy. And calls on the countries of the world to reject this false

narrative.

The Foreign Ministry also affirmed that it will continue to build on this international consensus as a strong beginning to deepen and expand the international front rejecting the extremist plans of the Netanyahu government. In full partnership and coordination with brothers and friends in the world.

Putting an end to the occupation state's impunity from accountability, accountability, and punishment constitutes the correct approach to correcting the international track in its dealings with the Israeli occupation of the land of the State of Palestine, and a step towards ending and dismantling the Israeli colonial occupation system, and banning the apartheid regime.

Nine million more risk being pushed into poverty in flood-ravaged Pakistan, warns UNDP

Web Desk

UNITED NATIONS: An additional nine million people risk being pushed into poverty on top of the 33 million affected by last summer's devastating floods in Pakistan, the UN Development Programme (UNDP) said Thursday, ahead of next week's International Conference on Climate Resilient Pakistan in Geneva.

"We estimate that up to around nine million people — additional people — could be pushed into poverty due to the flood impact" Knut Ostby, the UNDP Resident Representative

in Pakistan, said in Geneva. His remarks were also released at UN Headquarters in New York.

Although the Pakistan flooding was "unprecedented", it could happen to other countries affected by climate change, Ostby warned.

He said that crops had been lost from the last harvest and from the missed planting season. "Agricultural prices — food prices — are there pushing increasing and could push double the amount of people into food insecurity, increasing that number from seven to 14.6 million," added.

Echoing those concerns,

Pakistan's Permanent Representative to the UN in Geneva, Ambassador Khalil Hashmi, said that some eight million of the 33 million affected by the emergency remain "acutely displaced", as flood waters have still not receded in some areas.

Among the most urgent needs today, Ambassador Hashmi listed housing, agriculture and livelihoods. "That's the immediate side of it and that's the human side of it," he said, ahead of the high-level conference on Monday in the Swiss city, where Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and UN Secretary-General Anto-

nio Guterres are set to co-host the event.

Concretely, the aim of the conference is to bring together public and private sectors leaders and generate financial and international support to communities impacted by last year's devastating floods in Pakistan, and to rehabilitate and rebuild damaged infrastructure in a climate-resilient manner.

Some \$16 billion is needed to help the country's rehabilitation and reconstruction over the long-term. "It's not just a one-year project," said Syed Haider Shah, head of UN division in Pakistan's Ministry of



Foreign Affairs, speaking via Zoom from Islamabad.

"The needs have been further classified into four strategic

recovery objectives: and they deal with the Government's capacity-building, inclusive reconstruction, gender issues

and livelihoods."

More than 1,700 people were killed in the monsoon flooding disaster, UNDP's Ostby said, adding that at least two million homes were destroyed and damaged, along with "13,000 or more kilometres of roads, 3,000 kilometres or more of railway tracks, 439 bridges, 4.4 million acres of agricultural land".

Over one million livestock were also lost, the UNDP official said, adding that because there is still standing water in several areas, "many people cannot get back to their regular livelihoods" and therefore remain reliant on humanitarian assistance."

Bull & Bears
PSX 100-Share
Index Fluctuation

Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index	
Current	Prev. Close
41,007.52	40,716.74
Day's High	Day's Low:
41,097.89	40,684.49
Index Value	Change
5,837,894,884	+290.78
Percentage	Time
+0.71%	Jan 6, 2023 5:00 pm

Europe: FTSE 100 Index	
Index Value	Change
7,698.76	+65.31
Percentage	Time
+0.86%	6 Jan, 4:28 pm GMT

USA: Dow Jones Industrial Average	
Index Value	Change
33,451.04	+520.96
Percentage	Time
+1.58%	6 Jan, 11:29 am GMT-5

Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average	
Index Value	Change
25,973.85	+153.05
Percentage	Time
+0.59%	6 Jan, 3:15 pm GMT+9

Open Market Forex Rates		
Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	162	163.25
Bahrain Dinar	604	608.5
Canadian Dollar	172	173.35
China Yuan	32.41	32.66
Danish Krone	32.17	32.52
Euro	264.5	267
Hong Kong Dollar	29.04	29.39
Indian Rupee	2.72	2.8
Japanese Yen	2.4	2.44
Kuwaiti Dinar	739.7	744.7
Malaysian Ringgit	50.95	51.4
New Zealand \$	144	145.2
Norwegians Krone	22.43	22.73
Omani Riyal	590	594.5
Qatari Riyal	62.26	62.76
Saudi Riyal	66.7	67.3
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	69	69.6
UK Pound Sterling	301	304
US Dollar	234.25	236.5

Protests in Gwadar sending wrong signals: Mian Zahid Hussain

Tariq Khattak

ISLAMABAD: Chairman of National Business Group Pakistan, President Pakistan Businessmen and Intellectuals Forum, and All Karachi Industrial Alliance, and former provincial minister Mian Zahid Hussain on Friday said a delay in unpopular decisions and ignoring the demands of IMF is not benefiting the country but harming it.

According to the finance minister, the ninth and tenth reviews of the IMF will be held simultaneously, which indicates a delay in important matters, he said.

Mian Zahid Hussain said that if the bitter pill of fiscal discipline is not swallowed, Pakistan will run out of time. Further investment in infrastructure projects that become white elephants should be stopped.

Talking to the business community, the veteran business leader said that Gwadar is very important for the country therefore unrest among the local population should be calmed



urgently. Gwadar is the second most important port after Karachi and Pakistan's future is linked to it, therefore, the issues of the local popula-

tion deserve the full attention of the authorities, he added.

Mian Zahid Hussain said that the masses and the business community are concerned about the disturbing news from Gwadar where people are demanding their basic rights.

Locals want access to fishing in their own waters, the inclusion of the locals in jobs, and the provision of proper healthcare and education facilities.

He said that the local population should be given preference in employment opportunities and their lifestyle should improve.

There is no justification in CPEC except Gwadar and this area is considered an indicator of progress on this flagship project, he added.

The business leader said that locals complain that hundreds of large trawlers continue to fish in deep waters without any check and they also catch the small fish depriving locals of fishing opportunities and resulting in poverty and hunger.

Local fishermen fear that poverty and

hunger will increase, impacting the fishing communities of Gwadar, and the adjoining locations.

It may be recalled that locals were promised jobs and greater participation when the port became operational but it remained a promise.

Decisions on CPEC and Balochistan are made without taking into account the interest and priorities of the local residents therefore they see all such projects with scepticism.

Mian Zahid Hussain said that locals fear that the main beneficiaries of investments in Gwadar will be international investors. They will lose their advantage and may become a minority in their own district.

It is an open secret that several powers are CPEC and they are using all means including engaging frustrated elements to disrupt this project, therefore, the government should address these issues and engage with the communities, prove that they want to introduce meaningful reforms and that locals will not be cheated.

Donations

ISLAMABAD: CEO SK Hydro presenting a cheque of One Hundred Thousand US Dollars to Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif for the flood victims.



Photo: Online

SECP Chairman stresses upon improving service standards of insurance industry

KARACHI: The Chairman Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) Akif Saeed emphasized upon improving the corporate image of insurance industry by introducing new products with greater value to policyholders, upgrading service standards and timely disclosure of customers and claims data.

He was meeting the representatives of Insurance Association of Pakistan (IAP) and the Chief Executive Officers of major insurance companies. Akif was accompanied by the Commissioner SECP, Mujtaba Ahmad Lodhi, Head of Insurance Waseem Khan and Executive Director Musarat Jabeen.

Akif highlighted the significance of the insurance sector in our overall financial sector as well as on the economy of the country. He stressed the industry participants to play their due role in the develop-



ment of the sector, along with capital and debt markets of the country. The SECP team encouraged industry representatives to share their suggestions and feedback on the way forward for sound and orderly development of the insurance sector.

The industry participants suggested implementation of mandatory insurance schemes including motor third party liability insurance. The IAP pointed out that the sales tax on life insurance, health insurance and reinsurance services by provincial revenue authorities significantly hindered the growth of the sector.

RCCI delegation calls on IG Punjab

Spokesman Report

RAWALPINDI: Punjab Police close cooperation with the business community is vital as the business community plays an important role in running the country's economy. Traders are the backbone of the country's economy. To improve close liaison and cooperation with the police, the Chamber Police coordination committee will be formed.

These views were expressed by IG Punjab Amir Zulfiqar Khan while talking to the delegation of Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce in Rawalpindi Police Lines during his visit to Rawalpindi here on Friday. IG Punjab also issued instructions to Regional Police Officer Nasir Mahmood Sati and City Police Officer Shahzad



Nadeem Bukhari regarding the formation of the Police Liaison Chamber Committee.

The Chamber delegation included President Saqib Rafiq, Group Leader Sohail Altaf, Senior Vice President Muhammad Hamza Sarosh, and Vice President Faisal Shehzad. Former presidents Asad Mashhadi, Raja Amer Iqbal, Saboor Malik, Nasir Mirza and Nadeem Rauf were also

present on the occasion.

On this occasion, Chamber President Saqib Rafiq said that the Alternate Dispute Resolution Committee (ADRC) should be re-activated. He stressed on taking concrete steps on ending street crimes in the city and assured that RCCI will provide all kinds of assistance and cooperation with Police for maintaining law and order situation in Rawalpindi City.

FPCCI proposes austerity as an alternative to reduced timings

Commerce Reporter

KARACHI: Irfan Iqbal Sheikh, President FPCCI, has come up with an alternative plan of action vis-à-vis the recently announced National Energy Conservation Plan by the federal government, i.e. limiting the use of electricity to strictly the absolutely necessary lighting, appliances and equipment in homes, government offices, public spaces, shops, markets and restaurants.

Irfan Iqbal Sheikh has estimated that practicing austerity in all the aforementioned places & establishments all day long will save much more electricity than what closing shops, markets and restaurants at 08:30 PM will save, i.e. 25 percent of total power consumed can be saved.

Suleman Chawla, SVP FPCCI, apprised that being the apex body over 250 chambers, trade bodies and associations, FPCCI is uniquely positioned to assist the government in the awareness campaign across all sectors, segments, cities or regions of the country. Additionally, it will reduce the operational costs of the businesses as well.



Islamabad: Inspector General Police Punjab Aamir Zulfiqar Khan, Islamabad Chamber Senior Vice President Faad Waheed, Vice President Azharul Islam, ICCI Former President Zafar Bakhtawari and Former Senior Vice Presidents Khalid Chaudhary and Saifur Rehman are in a group photo. Spokesman Photo by Ghulam Farid

ICCI demands 15-years Export Policy to boost exports



News Desk

ISLAMABAD: Faad Waheed, Acting President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry has called upon the government to formulate a 15-years export policy to give a long-term direction to the exporters for enhancing exports. He said that ICCI and TDAP are working for the same goal to enhance Pakistan's trade and exports, therefore, close liaison between them is important to achieve these goals more effectively.

Nasir M. Qureshi, Karim Aziz Malik, Aamir Hussain, Hamayun Kabir, Sheikh Muhammad Ejaz, Ameer Hamza, Naem Siddiqui, Khalid Chaudhry, Ms. Parveen Khan and others also spoke at the occasion and highlighted various issues that needed the attention of TDAP for redress.

Pakistan, Islamabad during his visit to ICCI.

Faad Waheed said that TDAP's trade officers should share market study reports with ICCI on a regular basis so that the business community can capitalize on the potential opportunities of trade and exports in foreign markets. He said that ICCI and TDAP are working for the same goal to enhance Pakistan's trade and exports, therefore, close liaison between them is important to achieve these goals more effectively.

Nasir M. Qureshi, Karim Aziz Malik, Aamir Hussain, Hamayun Kabir, Sheikh Muhammad Ejaz, Ameer Hamza, Naem Siddiqui, Khalid Chaudhry, Ms. Parveen Khan and others also spoke at the occasion and highlighted various issues that needed the attention of TDAP for redress.

USC cuts ghee prices across country

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: Utility Store Corporation (USC) on Friday announced that the corporation has reduced the price of premium brand (Dalda) ghee by Rs 12 per kilogram (Kg).

According to press release, the price of 5 kg tin has also been reduced by Rs. 50.

1 kg of premium brand ghee (Dalda) would be available at 500 per kilogram instead of Rs.512 whereas 5 kg tin new price set at Rs 2530 compared to Rs 2580.

The New prices have been applied immediately, it added.

For purchasing the items other than those subsidized, no terms apply nor any password needs.

One-Time Password (OTP) has been temporarily abolished for the untargeted subsidy customers, now they can get subsidy by just showing the original and valid identity cards.

Only targeted subsidies (Registered customers of the Benazir Income Support Program (BISP) will send their ID Cards number to 5566 to get one-time password for the purchasing of subsidized items. Subsidy is being given only on wheat flour, sugar, ghee, pulses and rice.

SBP's undeclared ban on imports continues to affect business activities

Spokesman Report

LAHORE: The Pakistan Industrial and Traders Associations Front (PIAF) has stated that the government's strict import policy along with high cost of doing business owing to multiple increases in fuel cost and energy tariffs have almost halted the industrial production, as the Central Bank's undeclared ban on imports continued to affect the business activities in the country.

PIAF Chairman Faheem ur Rehman Saigol observed

that the State Bank of Pakistan has announced to relax some restrictions on imports pertaining to HS Code Chapter 84, 85 and certain items of Chapter 87 but practically nothing has changed, as trade and industry continued to face hurdles in imports as well as exports shipment proceeds.

In a joint statement along with senior vice chairman Nasrullah Mughal and vice chairman Tahir Manzoor, Faheem Saigol said that the industry needs a supply chain to run the whole economy, adding that the big industries

require raw material all the time. He said that the economy of Pakistan needed to boost exports for which it is important that the SBP should further relax import restrictions and adopt a more lenient import policy as many export-oriented industries have to import raw materials and intermediate goods to produce the finished products.

The State Bank's decision severely affected the pharmaceutical, auto, plastic, mobile phone, engineering and textile industries negatively. The most concerned

are those industries whose consignments have reached at the port and are being asked by the suppliers to pay the bill but the banks are still creating hurdles on behalf of the State Bank. Though importers have the money but are unable to send the amount to them. Those who import goods under Cash Against Document are of the view their clients are getting angry with them as they are not able to make payment timely.

The PIAF Chairman said that the collection at the import stage contributes

almost 50 percent of the total revenue collection. However, the restricted imports policy is badly affecting the tax collection of the country as the loss in revenue collection at the import stage has reached almost to over Rs.50 billion monthly.

He said that if the imports are not further relaxed, the contractionary policy will further impact the revenue collection in the coming months. He urged the SBP to take the trade and industry of the country including PIAF on board to make further

relaxations in imports so that the business activities can flourish and exports can be further increased to improve the meager forex reserves of the country.

He complained about the persistent delay in import of raw material and said that businesses are shutting down, triggering unemployment in the country. Cumulatively, in the first five months of the current fiscal year 2023, the current account deficit contracted by more than half to \$3 billion against \$7 billion of corresponding period.

Jazz receives 7 awards at Global Diversity

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Jazz, Pakistan's leading digital operator and a part of the VEON Group, bagged 7 awards at the Global Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Benchmarks (GDEIB) Awards 2023.

The company received the 'Best Practices' award for its visionary efforts

in implementing DEI as a strategy when it comes to learning and development, communications, community integration, government relations and philanthropy initiatives. Jazz believes in cultivating trust, and acceptance to promote and contribute to creating an inclusive world.

Cricket Center, MTG record victories in 20-K Cup T20 Cricket Tournament

Sports Reporter

LAHORE: Cricket Center Club and Model Town Greens recorded victories on the second day of the 20-K Cup 2023 T20 Cricket Tournament against their respective opponents here at Model Town Greens ground on Friday.

The first match of the day proved a low-scoring affair, where Cricket Center comfortably overpowered Yu Slim Cricket Club by 7 wickets.

Cricket Center won the toss and elected to bat first. Their decision paid divided as Cricket Center bundled out Yu Slim Club for 81 in 15.4 overs, thanks to excellent bowling by Qaiser Ashraf 3-14, Adnan Rasool 3-12 and Said ur Rehman 2-10. From Yu Slim Club, only Safer Azam (32) and Aamer Jamil (24) could cross the double figures.

Cricket Center replied strongly and chased the required target in just 12 overs for the loss of just three wickets. Anaz Mehmood hammered unbeaten 21 runs off 22 balls while Tariq Nawaz struck 13-ball 19 runs and Basit Ali



contributed with 18 runs off 21 balls. Only Awais Munir (2 for 20) and Haider Butt (1 for 9) bowled well for Yu Slim Club. Adnan Rasool was named player of the match.

The second match of the day was a

one-sided affair, where Model Town Greens outclassed P&T Gymkhana by a huge margin of 61 runs. Model Town Greens decided to bat first after winning the toss and posted a mammoth total of 171 runs on the board for the loss of

8 wickets in allotted 20 overs. Mirwais Khan was top scorer from the winning team as he played 25 ball to smash superb 41 runs while other key contributors were Awais Zafar (35) and Usman Khalid (29) and Waleed (17). From P&T

Gymkhana, Adan Mir claimed 4-35 and Asad Raza 3-30.

P&T though started their run-chase well but the outstanding bowling by Model Town Greens bowled very tightly and restricted their opponents to 110 all out in 19.1 overs. Muhammad Ishaq top-scored with 42 runs while Ali Razzaq and Ahmed Bhatti scored 12 runs each. Mirwais Khan bowled brilliantly and grabbed 3 wickets for 26 runs while Ahmad Arif bagged 3 for 19 runs and Usman Khalid 2 for 15.

For his all-round performance, Mirwais Khan emerged as man of the match. The event is being played to pay homage to Col Fateh Sher Khan.

On Saturday (January 7), the only match of the day will be played between Golden Star Cricket Club and Pindi Gymkhana at 11:00.

Inter-Collegiate Games (Men & Women) will be held on 22 January



Tahir Amin Malik

LAHORE : DG Sports Punjab Tariq Qureshi said that the Inter-Collegiate Games (Men & Women) will be held from January 22 to 26 at tehsil level while the Inter-Division Collegiate Games will be held from February 1 to 6, 2023.

He said this while chairing an important meeting to review arrangements of Inter-Collegiate Games and Talent Hunt Programme (Olympic Dream) at National Hockey Stadium on Friday.

Director Sports Chand Perveen, all Divisional Sports Officers of Punjab, Assistant Director Department of Higher Education, Punjab Waqas Akbar participated in the meeting. All the divisional sports officers of Punjab presented the report of their respective division in the meeting.

Addressing the meeting, Tariq Qureshi said that Sports Board Punjab is fully cooperating with Punjab Higher Education Department for the successful holding of Inter-Collegiate Games. "We will provide venues and technical staff for Inter-Collegiate Games. Male athletes will take part in eight games such as athletics, badminton, cricket, football, hockey, kabaddi, volleyball and wrestling while female players will feature in five game disciplines like athletics, badminton, cricket, hockey and volleyball in Inter-Collegiate Games".

The trials and registration of U-16 boys and girls athletes under Talent Hunt Programme (Olympic Dream) were also reviewed in detail during the meeting.

Tariq Qureshi said that Talent Hunt Programme Olympic Dream is the biggest Talent Hunt Programme in the history of Punjab. "We have set a target to register 10 lakh children of Punjab in this grand programme," he added.

He further said that the trials of Under 16 boys and girls from different schools will be completed at the division level by January 31. "The trials of Under 16 boys and girls will be taken in athletics, football, gymnastics, martial arts, boxing, wrestling, archery, badminton, table tennis, cricket, volleyball, hockey and handball," he informed.

Shan Masood named vice-captain for NZ ODIs



Web Desk

KARACHI : Opener Shan Masood has been named as Pakistan's vice-captain for the three-match One-Day international series against New Zealand, commencing on Jan 9.

Shan, who made a return to the national ODI side after three years, will be Babar Azam's deputy during the upcoming home series in the absence of Shadab Khan, who injured his index finger last week.

The left-handed batter played his last ODI in March 2019 against Australia in Dubai. He has been recalled to the One-day side along with Haris Sohail to add experience to the team.

"We have decided to recall experienced Haris Sohail and Shan Masood as we believe the two lads still have plenty to offer to Pakistan cricket," said Interim Chief Selector Shahid Afridi on Thursday while announcing the 16-member squad.

Masood is currently part of the Pakistan's Test side in the ongoing second Test against New Zealand.

It is pertinent to mention that the three ODI matches, part of ICC Men's Cricket World Cup Super League, between the hosts Pakistan and New Zealand will be played at National Bank Cricket Arena on January 9, 11 and 13, respectively.

Pakistan's Squad:

Babar Azam (captain), Shan Masood (vice-captain), Fakhar Zaman, Haris Rauf, Haris Sohail, Imam-ul-Haq, Kamran Ghulam, Mohammad Hasnain, Mohammad Nawaz, Mohammad Rizwan (wk), Mohammad Wasim Jnr, Naseem Shah, Salman Ali Agha, Shahnawaz Dahani, Tayyab Tahir and Usama Mir

2nd Test last day

KARACHI: Pakistan's Sarfaraz Ahmed plays a shot during the fifth and final day of the Second Cricket Test match between Pakistan and New Zealand at the National Stadium, in Provincial Capital.



Photo: Online

Sarfaraz, bad light save the day for Pakistan

Sports Desk

KARACHI : Sarfaraz Ahmed continued his red-hot form with a thrilling century to help Pakistan draw a nail-biting second and final test against New Zealand as the series ended 0-0 on Friday.

The 35-year-old Sarfaraz, who also struck half-centuries in his three previous innings after being recalled for the series following a near-four year absence, made 118 before the last-wicket pair hung on in dimming light for 21 balls to take Pakistan to 304-9, just 15 runs shy of its victory target.

New Zealand took seven wickets on the final day and was within one more scalp of forcing a win.

Sarfaraz stood firm for 4 fours and 48 minutes and featured in a second successive century stand with Saud Shakeel (32) after the Black Caps had reduced Pakistan to 80-5 before lunch thanks to Michael Bracewell (4-75) claiming two wickets in six deliveries.

Sarfaraz and Shakeel defied New Zealand for nearly three hours before



Shakeel fell to a brilliant reflex catch in the slips by Daryl Mitchell early in the final session. Agha Salman made a brisk 30 but was clean bowled by Matt Henry before New Zealand struck twice with the second new ball under fading light.

Hasan Ali was trapped leg before wicket by Tim Southee and Sarfaraz was superbly snapped up by Kane William-

son low at leg slip off Bracewell's sharp off-spin, and the Pakistan batter walked off to a standing ovation from the sparse crowd at the National Stadium.

No. 10 Naseem Shah and No. 11 Abrar Ahmed then held out against Bracewell and fellow spinner Ish Sodhi (2-59), with all 10 fielders around the bat, before bad light ended play with three overs left.

Hamza Khan advances to British Junior Open quarterfinals

Sports desk



ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's Hamza Khan won two back-to-back matches to book his quarter-final berth in the Boys U-19 category of the British Junior Open Squash Championship in Birmingham, the UK on Friday.

According to information made available here by Pakistan Squash Federation, in the first fixture, Hamza downed Lazlo Godde in straight games 11-4, 11-9, 11-5. In the third round, he edged passed Joachim Chuah in an exciting contest by a scoreline of 12-10, 11-7, 10-12, 11-6.

In the quarterfinals, Hamza will compete against Omar Azzam of Egypt. Hamza's compatriots Noor Zaman and Ashab Irfan could not reach the quarter-final stage.

Noor lost to Yassin Shohdy after a five-game epic battle by a game score of 8-11, 12-10, 11-9, 11-13, 7-11, while Ashab Irfan was handed defeat by Rowan Dammings 13-11, 7-11, 10-12, 5-11.

In Boys U-13 category, Nouman Khan and Ahmed Rayyan Khalil displayed stunning performances to advance to quarterfinals. Nouman overcame Egyptian boy Yassin Bayumi 11-9, 9-11, 11-7, 8-11 and 11-6.

In the quarterfinal, he will lock horns with Egypt's Mohammed Ashraf. Similarly, Ahmed Rayyan saw off England's Ali Khalil 11-9, 11-7, 11-9 to face Carlton Capella of USA in the quarterfinal.

In Boys U-15 category, Pakistan's Mubeen Khan lost to Jack Elriami 9-11, 7-11, 5-11.

In Boys U-17 category, Abdullah Nawaz of Pakistan edged passed Harith Daniel Jeferi 11-7, 11-9, 11-7. However, he could not reach the quarterfinal as in his next match, he conceded defeat to Alex Broad Bridge 12-10, 6-11, 11-1, 9-11 and 7-11.

In Girls U-11 category, Pakistan's Mahnoor Ali beat Lannon Welch of USA 11-8, 11-7, 11-9 to take on Egyptian girl Lille Mashaal in the quarterfinal.

Pakistan skipper falls as NZ eye victory in Karachi

Web Desk

KARACHI : New Zealand got Pakistan captain Babar Azam's wicket at 77 on Michael Bracewell's delivery in the first session of the final Test in Karachi.

Pakistan resumed their batting on the last day of the final Test at zero for the loss of two wickets. Soon after the day started, the hosts lost their key batter Imam-ul-Haq at 35.

Earlier, Pakistan lost two wickets without scoring in its chase of the 319 winning target against New Zealand at the end of an eventful fourth day of the second test on Thursday.

New Zealand set up its bid for a series victory in its first test tour to Pakistan in 20 years after declaring its second innings on 277-5 and using the last three overs of the day to bowl opener Abdullah Shafique and night-watchman Mir Hamza.

Pakistan was 0-2 at stumps

and has to beat its previous highest successful chase of 314 runs in 1994 when Australia was beaten by one wicket at the same National Stadium.

On a day when the umpires made misjudgements, New Zealand left no doubt when captain Tim Southee knocked back Shafique's off stump off the second ball which kept a bit low and Ish Sodhi clean bowled Hamza for a pair in the match to leave Pakistan in deep trouble.

Tom Blundell (74) and Michael Bracewell (74 not out) firmed up New Zealand with a 127-run stand. Blundell holed out in the deep as New Zealand looked for quick runs and Southee made a late declaration.

New Zealand took a 41-run, first-innings lead after dismissing Pakistan for 408, then umpires Alex Wharf and Aleem Dar took center stage after lunch.

New Zealand successfully overturned Wharf's two leg before

decisions in favor of legspinner Abrar Ahmed and Dar erred when his caught behind ruling against Henry Nicholls (5) was overturned.

Pakistan didn't go for an lbw referral after Tom Latham (62) hit his second successive half-century when Wharf ruled for the batter and video suggested the ball would have hit the leg stump.

Blundell also successfully overturned an lbw decision before he scored and was dropped by wicketkeeper Sarfaraz Ahmed just before tea.

Sarfaraz also dropped Bracewell soon after he completed his half-century and missed a stumping of Daryl Mitchell just before the New Zealand declaration.

Latham and Kane Williamson's (41) century stand pushed New Zealand ahead by 155 runs before Pakistan struck three times in the space of 14 runs.

Latham was brilliant-

ly snapped up by Abrar, who plucked a low left-handed catch at square leg to break a threatening 114-run stand.

Williamson followed when Abrar finally had him lbw after twice wasting two reviews against the former captain before lunch.

Hasan Ali, playing his first test since July, picked up his first wicket when Nicholls mistimed a pull shot and was caught at mid-off.

Latham dominated the spinners with sweep shots and hit 11 boundaries. He survived a chance just before his 25th half-century when Babar Azam dropped a difficult catch at midwicket.

Earlier, Devon Conway was out for a golden duck before Latham and Williamson guided New Zealand to 76-1 by lunch for an overall lead of 117 runs.

Left-arm fast bowler Hamza picked up his first test wicket in four years when he had first-innings century-maker Conway



clean bowled off the first ball when it shaped into the left-hander and struck the off stump after clipping Conway's pads.

Hamza was wicketless in the drawn first test last week after being recalled for the first time

since 2018.

Williamson and Latham batted with patience against pace on a pitch which looked good for batting, with only the odd ball keeping low and hardly any turn for the spinners.

Legspinner Sodhi (3-95) wrapped up Pakistan's first innings in the first over when he had No. 11 Abrar trapped. Left-arm spinner Ajaz Patel picked up 3-88. Pakistan lost its last five wickets for 23 runs.