



Elections after completion of existing assembly's tenure

The Federal Minister for Commerce Syed Naveed Qamar on Saturday said that general elections would be held after completion of the tenure of the existing assembly. He said that those political elements demanding early elections were also aware of this fact. He was talking to the media in Tando Muhammad Khan district, where he laid the foundation stone for a 9.25 kilometers road.



PTI always wanted better Pak-US ties: Fawad Chaudhry

Former information minister and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leader Fawad Chaudhry asserted his party always wanted better relations between Pakistan and the United States (US). "We never wanted confrontational relations with the United States (US)," the former information minister said during an interview on BBC HardTalk. (Report on Page 8)

Simultaneously published from Islamabad, Lahore and Multan

Pre-admission entry test

HYDERABAD: Students solving the question paper in the Pre-Admission Entry Test for various Degree and Diploma programs, while Vice Chancellor Dr. Professor Ikramuddin Ujjan witnessing the test, at LUMHS Jamshoro on Saturday.

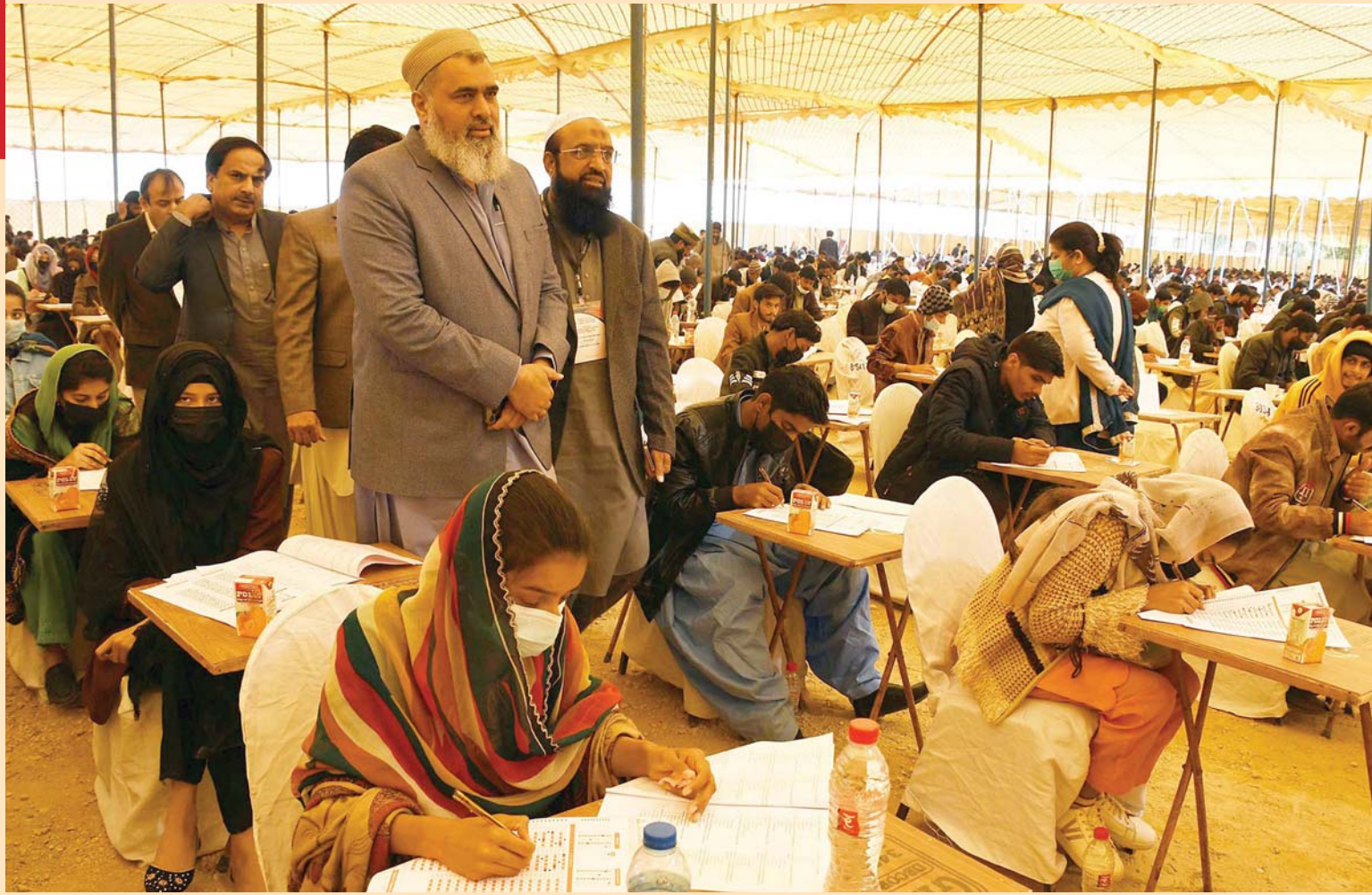


Photo: Online

Pakistan to complete terms of IMF's programme: PM

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Saturday said that he had told the Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) about his government's resolve to complete the terms of IMF's programme.

On his Twitter handle, the prime minister said that he had held a telephonic conversation with the IMF MD yesterday.

"I also explained Pakistan's economic difficulties especially after the devastating floods. IMF delegation will come to Pakistan soon," he added in a tweet.

On Friday, Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund Kristalina Georgieva had called the prime minister over telephone and expressed her deep sympathy and concern on the human and material losses due to the recent floods and reiterated her commitment to help Pakistan in the difficult period.

Kristalina Georgieva thanked the PM for the invitation to participate in the Climate Resilient Pakistan Conference at Geneva, saying she would be able to join the conference virtually as the IMF Board meetings had been prefixed for January 9-10.

Elahi's vote of confidence to set the tone for election campaign: Imran Khan

Spokesman Report

LAHORE: Another twist to high drama in Punjab's political arena appeared as Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) supremo Imran Khan said on Saturday the PTI would begin the election campaign after Punjab Chief Minister Parvez Elahi's vote of confidence in the assembly.

A meeting of the PTI top brass, headed by Imran Khan, was held at his Zaman Park residence in Lahore. Punjab Assembly Speaker Malik Sibtain Khan, provincial minister Malik Aslam Iqbal, Dr Yasmin Rashid and others participated to discuss the political impasse and Mr Elahi's vote of confidence.

The deposed premier, while taking a swipe at the ruling Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM), said he would not provide any opportunity to the "imported group" to escape from snap elections, adding that the rulers knew that they would be rejected by the masses. He said the PTI would begin the election campaign after Parvez Elahi's vote of confidence in the Punjab Assembly.

Earlier, PTI's parliamentary leader in Punjab Assembly Usman Buzdar said he did not issue any instructions to party



lawmakers to help Punjab Chief Minister (CM) Parvez Elahi secure a vote of confidence in the assembly on Jan 9. The PTI chief had said the chief minister should secure a vote of confidence in the assembly before Jan 9, otherwise the PTI would quit the assembly.

Sources said PTI's legal team had advised the chief to initiate the process as per Lahore High Court's ruling otherwise, it would give constitutional weight to Punjab Governor Balighur Rehman's orders [binding CM to secure trust vote before Jan 11]. The court had earlier adjourned the hearing until Jan 11 and bound the CM to obtain a vote of confidence before dissolving the Punjab Assembly after Mr Elahi moved the LHC against the governor's notification removing him as the CM.

PTI MPA Zainab Umair said the party was deliberating on the matter.

PMs of Pakistan, Kuwait resolve to expand ties

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif held a telephonic conversation with the Prime Minister of Kuwait Sheikh Ahmad Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah on Sunday and discussed matters of mutual interest.

The Prime Minister of Pakistan apprised the Kuwaiti Prime Minister of the International Conference on Climate Resilient Pakistan, to be held in Geneva, on 9 January 2023, and requested high-level participation. The Kuwaiti PM expressed firm support for the



initiatives to strengthen Pakistan's climate resilience.

The Prime Minister reaffirmed

the importance Pakistan attached to its relationship with Kuwait and reiterated the desire to further

expand bilateral cooperation in diverse fields. He underscored the resolve to forge deeper economic engagement between Pakistan and Kuwait - including in trade, investment, labor, and other key sectors.

The Prime Minister expressed satisfaction at the close cooperation between the two countries at the multilateral forums. He appreciated the measures taken by Kuwait for the recruitment of Pakistani manpower in the fields of health, security, and infrastructure.

The Prime Minister of Kuwait reciprocated the sentiments of

the Prime Minister and reassured them of the desire of the Kuwaiti leadership to further deepen and broaden bilateral relations with Pakistan. The two leaders agreed to maintain close contact and work together on all issues of mutual interest.

The two leaders agreed to remain in close contact and take forward the process of consolidation and further expansion of Pakistan-Kuwait relations.

Kuwait hosts over 100,000 strong Pakistani diaspora which is contributing significantly in the development and progress of both nations.

Nanbai Association to Protest over flour price hike

Bureau Report

LAHORE: Nanbai Association Punjab on Saturday announced to protest on January 12 against the unchecked flour price hike.

A meeting of the Nanbai Association was held under the chairmanship of President Aftab Gul, in which the participants decided to stage a protest in front of the Chief Secretary's office in Punjab.

In the meeting, the members discussed increasing the price of naan and roti due to the increase in fine and red flour prices.

"The price of flour, fine flour is increasing day by day, which forced us to sell roti at Rs 35 and naan at Rs 40. Due to all-time high prices of flour, we cannot sell roti at Rs 15 and naan for Rs 25," said President Aftab Gul.

Aftab Gul demanded cheap fine flour at tandoors and said, "if the government wants us to sell cheap naan and roti, they should be delivered subsidised flour to tandoors."

Rana Sanaullah holds IMF responsible for country's economic crisis

News Desk

FAISALABAD: Minister for Interior Rana Sanaullah on Saturday held the International Monetary Fund (IMF) responsible for economic crisis as the international lender is pressuring the government to increase fuel prices and withdraw subsidies. Dunya News reported.

Addressing a ceremony in Faisalabad on Saturday, he said that the country is passing through difficult phase right now and the inflation in the country is due to the IMF.

The minister said that the international lender has tied the loan with the implementation of conditions laid down by it, adding that the prices of commodities will skyrocket if government implement the agreement and with the increase in fuel prices, the inflation will also increase.

"People are making up different stories regarding the IMF agreement, on the other hand, a shameless person wants the country to default," he added.

He said that some elements were intentionally creating uncertainty for their ulterior political motives.



Their propaganda was practically double-edged sword as they wanted to create problems for the sitting government in addition to pushing Pakistan towards bankruptcy.

"However, PM Shehbaz Sharif along with his economic team is making sincere efforts to overcome this situation and hopefully the people will hear a good news very soon near future", he added.

He said that during the period of Nawaz Sharif, the growth rate was as high as 6.2 per cent. Dollar was stable at Rs105. Similarly the prices of electricity and gas were stable and affordable for the common people.

Without naming Imran Khan, the minister termed him as an absolute liar and said, "He was blaming that I have murdered 20 people. He was enjoying full powers in federal and provincial governments. He was in

a position to prove myself guilty of these allegations but he used it just as a tool of political maligning and hence he was forced to get registered yet another false heroin case against me".

"This person is hoodwinking the masses especially the youth. He is promoting culture of abusive language, hate and obscenity. The people must reject him with their vote power as the country may face any mishap if he usurped the power again through illegal means", the minister added.

Rana Sanaullah said that Wazirabad attach was a personal deed of a person who was apprehended then and there and he also confessed the crime but PTI was making false propaganda of three culprits only to keep this case alive for their political maneuvering.

He said that a NADRA Center had been established in Painsara while he was trying to setup other centers in Aminpur Bungalow and Ramdevwali Sargodha Road besides increasing 3-4 times capacity of Main Centre Faisalabad to facilitate the people.

Crisis Alert: SBP Forex reserves fall to 4.5bn after debt payments

Bureau Report

KARACHI: The foreign exchange reserves held by the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) continued their declining spree, plunging by \$1.2bn to reach \$4.5 billion, citing sources. According to sources, the SBP-held foreign exchange reserves have fallen to \$4.5 billion after the new debt repayments to UAE.

Pakistan paid back \$600mn to the Emirates NBD Bank and \$415mn to the DIB on Friday, they say. After the fresh debt repayments, the forex reserves have dropped to \$4.5bn, sufficient for only 25 days of import cover, they say.

On Thursday, the central bank reported that foreign reserves had fallen to \$5.6 billion as of December 30, 2022.

According to the data issued by State Bank of Pakistan, the total liquid foreign reserves held by the country stood at \$11.43 billion.

Pakistan welcomes China's latest COVID policy: Ambassador

News Desk

BEIJING: Pakistan welcomes China's recent COVID policy adjustment and believes it will significantly contribute to the recovery and growth of the world economy, Pakistan Ambassador to China Moin ul Haque said.

In an interview with Global Times, he said that Pakistan is opposed to the "politicization of the pandemic."

According to the Pakistani diplomat, the recent adjustments that China made are reflective of the latest pandemic situation and are based on scientific and rational analysis. The Pakistani people have noted the revised measures announced by China in its fight against the COVID-19 pandemic and they "welcome them."

"Since the outbreak of COVID-19, China has made effective efforts to protect people's lives and health. The recent adjustments are reflec-



tive of the latest pandemic situation and are based on scientific and rational analysis. It marks a decisive victory against the virus," he said. "These changes will facilitate people-to-people exchanges between China and other countries and will significantly contribute to the recovery and growth of the world economy," he noted.

China has recently made a series of refined measures including managing COVID-19 with measures against Class-B infectious diseases starting from January 8. The provisional measures on cross-border state that starting from January 8, inbound travelers with no issues to report in their health declaration can enter China without being subject to quarantine.

Animal fodder

KARACHI: Amid the flour crisis in the province, the Sindh Livestock and Fisheries Department has sought Rs500 million from the provincial government for procurement of animal fodder.



Hong Kong, Pakistan sign MoU on education cooperation



News Desk

BEIJING: Hong Kong, Education Secretary, Choi Yuk-Lin said that the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) marked the beginning of a new phase of close cooperation between Hong Kong and Pakistan in the area of education.

Education Bureau of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) government signed a MOU with the Ministry of Federal Education and Professional Training of Pakistan to enhance education collaboration.

Hong Kong, Pakistan sign MoU on education cooperation

The MOU provided a framework to facilitate strategic education collaboration between Hong Kong and Pakistan and covers mutually beneficial initiatives, including the

exchange of expertise and experience, exchange of educational literature, teaching aids, and demonstration materials, as well as exchanges of scholars, teachers, experts, students, and other education personnel, according to an official press release, People's Daily reported.

The HKSAR government has signed nine MOUs with countries along the Belt and Road to date, which demonstrates the HKSAR government's commitment to and effort in enhancing the internationalization of education as well as strengthening educational ties and exchanges with the Belt and Road countries, Choi said.

"I am confident that the MOU will facilitate more comprehensive exchanges and collaboration in education between the two places," she added.

PTI always wanted better Pak-US ties: Fawad Chaudhry

Bureau Report

LAHORE: Former information minister and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leader Fawad Chaudhry asserted his party always wanted better relations between Pakistan and the United States (US).

"We never wanted confrontational relations with the United States (US)," the former information minister said during an interview on BBC HardTalk.

However, Fawad Chaudhry, said that no one should interfere in Pakistan's governance matters. "We do not want anyone including the US and UK to dictate Pakistan," he said, adding that citizens should

have the right to choose people - who will rule them.

The PTI leader further said that his party's government was ousted through 'unconstitutional manner', adding that they believe in democracy.

In response to a question, Fawad Chaudhry said that his party presented evidence - the cypher - in the ouster of the PTI government in key meetings, but they were not paid heed to.

"The cypher was sent by Pakistan Ambassador after a meeting with Donald Lu - Assistant Secretary Bureau Of South And Central Asian Affairs," the former federal minister added.

"Donald Lu had said that



Pak-US ties would depend on the success or failure of vote of confidence," the PTI leader claimed, adding: "We wanted a judicial investigation into the cypher issue".

Speaking of the 'prevailing challenges', the former information minister said that the country's foreign exchange reserves were declining constantly due

to political instability.

"The PDM government has created a situation of uncertainty in Pakistan", he said, adding that the incumbent rulers have no roadmap to save the country's economy.

About security challenges, Chaudhry said his party government was holding "continuous negotiations

with the Afghan government. However, he lambasted the government "ruining" all efforts due to their "ignorance of Afghanistan's problems".

Earlier, former prime minister and PTI Chairman Imran Khan signaled desire to build better ties with United States (US) based on mutual respect, saying that he wants to lead good relationships with everyone, "especially the United States".

"Our relationship with the US has been as of a master-servant relationship, or a master-slave relationship, and we've been used like a hired gun. But for that I blame my own governments more than the US," said Imran Khan.

AJK govt to protest outside PM's office over 'non-payment of funds'

City Reporter

ISLAMABAD: The Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) government has announced to stage a sit-in outside Prime Minister's Office (PMO) in Islamabad over 'non-payment of development funds', ARY News reported on Saturday.

In a statement, senior Parliamentarian and Adviser to Azad Kashmir Prime Minister (PM) Muhammad Hussain has criticised the federal government for not 'releasing' the funds, saying that they would move Supreme Court (SC) against the 'injustice'.

Muhammad Hussain noted that AJK PM Sardar Tanveer Ilyas held local government (LG) elections after 31 years. "How we can entertain the elected local body representatives if funds



are not issued," he asked.

He alleged that the federal government has cut Rs15 billion from the annual budget of Azad Kashmir, warning of a sit-in outside Prime Minister's Office (PMO) in Islamabad if development funds are not released.

It is pertinent to mention here that Pakistan Tehreek-e-

Insaf (PTI) took a commanding lead over its opponents in the third and final phase of the AJK local government (LG) polls in the third phase.

According to the unofficial and unconfirmed results of 1050 seats out of a total 1,083, the ruling Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) secured 361 seats. Independent candidates remain

second on the list with 309 seats.

Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) has grabbed 225 seats, followed by Pakistan People's Party with 138 seats. Tehreek-e-Labaik Pakistan secured eight seats and AJK Muslim Conference and JUI secured eight and one seat respectively.

NAB summons PTI leader Zulfi Bukhari on 9th

City Reporter

ISLAMABAD: The National Accountability Bureau (NAB) on Saturday summoned the former SAPM and PTI leader Zulfi Bukhari, ARY News reported.

As per details, the anti-corruption watchdog sent another notice to Zulfi for the investigation of the transfer of land for Al Qadir university.

The anti-corruption watchdog ordered the PTI leader to appear before NAB along with the land transfer record. The former cabinet member Zulfi Bukhari was told that the registry documents should also be submitted to NAB.

Earlier, Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leader Zulfi Bukhari has withdrawn his British nationality, he shared withdrawal documents approved by the British Home office on media. He added that now he would fight for 'real independence' along with PTI Chief Imran Khan. People were speculating that he would flee the country as soon as the PTI government ends, he added.

Bannu hand grenade attack kills policeman, injures other

Web Desk

BANNU: In yet another incident, a policeman was killed and other injured after militants threw a hand-grenade at a police van.

Bannu Division Police spokesperson Wajid Khan said when the police were carrying out a raid within the area of Township, militants came on motorcycle, threw the grenade, and fled. The details of the raid were not shared.

It prompted additional police contingents to reach the place of incidence and launch a "search operation" to hunt the attackers. The injured has been shifted to the hospital.

Balochistan hospital nurse reveals sexual harassment scandal with staff

Web Desk

QUETTA: A nurse from Sheikh Zayed Hospital on Friday accused the administration of blackmailing and sexual harassment to female nurse staff, ARY News reported.

The provincial authorities and police received an anonymous letter from the affected nurse of Sheikh Zayed Hospital. The letter states that nurses and other female staff in Sheikh Zayed Hospital are forced to solicit by a powerful group.

The alleged victim revealed in the letter that those staffers who do not obey them are subjected to oppression, moreover all the facilities are given to those who followed

the instructions given by the influential group.

She further exposed the gang and stated that the staff nurses are being blackmailed through immoral pictures, meanwhile the victim did not reveal her name due to the threat from this group.

The secretary of health Balochistan has taken notice of the matter and established a committee to investigate and record the statements of affected women.

In a relevant development, the provincial authorities said that not a single complainant appeared before the committee. The committee is still waiting for the statements of the affected women to get the shreds of evidence to take strict action against the involved

officers.

Last month, Quetta police arrested two suspects including Hidayat Khilji for their alleged role in abducting, and filming obscene videos of girls in Quetta.

Addressing a presser in Quetta, DIG Police said that a woman filed a complaint with the police regarding the abduction of her two daughters.

"The woman blamed that Hidayat Khilji and his brother Khalil abducted them," he said adding that obscene videos and pictures of the two girls were shared on different platforms.

He said that they immediately acted against the suspects and arrested them after registering a case against them.

Lucky Ali demands plea bargain money with profit from NAB

Web Desk

ISLAMABAD: The biggest recovery of National Accountability Bureau (NAB) Rawalpindi had become controversial as the filmmaker Lucky Ali demands the total money Rs1,400 million given in plea bargain with profit.

He claimed the total money liable on him was Rs500 million but the NAB blackmailed and pressurized me to give Rs1,995 million. He said he had registered request before the DG NAB Rawalpindi and chairman He also decided to take the matter to the court.

The moviemaker made a claim that out of Rs1,995 million, NAB only gave Rs450 million to the affected people and the NAB had no justification to keep Rs1,400 million in its pocket.

Imran Khan assassination bid:

Forensic report of alleged attacker's mobile phone surfaces

Bureau Report

LAHORE: A forensic report of a mobile phone recovered from the possession of a suspect in a case related to assassination attempt on PTI Chairman Imran Khan surfaces.

The PTI chief came under the attack in October last in Wazirabad when firing was opened at his container during the party's long march against the government. Following the incident, police arrested a suspect, identified as Naveed, who later confessed to targeting Imran Khan.

The forensic revealed that experts were unable to recover the deleted data from his mobile phone. It said the suspect was using SIMs of two telecom companies, adding that 138 contact numbers had been recovered from his phone. The forensic officials have found the record of 1,869 calls, 337 messages, 212 videos and 1,956 photos from the device.

It further said 449 calls were made from Naveed's phone. The record of his mobile phone has been handed over to the joint investigation team (JIT) probing the assassination bid on Imran Khan.

No water loaded in another PIA flight

Web Desk

KARACHI: Another Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) flight took off with no water loaded on the plane for passengers, ARY News reported.

As per details, the Islamabad-bound PIA flight from Karachi had no water in the toilets for passengers.

Upon finding out no water on the PIA flight, the passengers were asked to use mineral water in the toilets.

The passengers also reported that they were not served drinks, tea and coffee too.

Governor Sindh, parliamentarians and other dignitaries were also on the flight.

There was a bitter exchange between the passengers and the flight attendants.

Heavy fog grips Peshawar city, surroundings

Correspondent

PESHAWAR: The traffic flow is slow in Peshawar city with heavy fog gripping the entire surroundings and the visibility is very low, an official of the Met Office said.

According to details, the traffic to other districts including Peshawar, Kohat, Dera Ismail Khan, Lakki Marwat is also affected due to heavy fog here on Saturday. He said, due to heavy fog, the cold has increased and most people were confined to their homes due to fog intensity.

However, a new spell of rain is likely to occur in most districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa from today (Saturday), the official of the Meteorological Department Khyber Pakhtunkhwa said. The rain will continue intermittently till Monday said the official while talking to APP.

Second day of 'Waziristan Aman Olasi Pason'

Adam Khan Wazir

WANA: The second day of "Waziristan Aman Olasi Pason" (Waziristan Peace People's Movement) protests against unrest, target killings, robbery and kidnapping for ransom continues in Wana, district headquarter of South Waziristan Lower Tribal District, and Wana Shakai Road closed for traffic, on the second day, a large number of people were present at the peace protest.



On the other hand, after the negotiations with the protesters, Assistant Commissioner Wana Yasir Salman Kundi gave his stance and said that their demands are legitimate and the protesters have a ten-point agenda, work is already underway on it.

The district administration is making every effort to resolve the legitimate demands of the protesters and the problems faced by them as soon as possible, and all possible steps are being taken to establish peace.

Local leaders of all political parties, PPP, ANP, JUI, JJ, PTI, NDM, Pakhtunkhwa Map, business community, PTM, tribal elders and youths for estab-

lishing peace at the local level. A large number of people participated in the demonstration.

Local leaders of various political parties expressed their views. And presented these demands to the government on behalf of "Waziristan Aman Olasi Pason" (Waziristan 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 shifted 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 Adda, Zarmelan, Ragzai police stations.

To give legal powers and privileges to the police, to restore the closed jobs of the special 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 negotiation team of the protesters said that if our demands are not accepted, the protest will continue.

After food prices soar

KARACHI: People jostle to buy a bag of wheat flour from a governmental subsidized sale point in Provincial Capital. Inflation in Pakistan is running at more than 100 percent, and the country suffers hours of power and gas outages daily. Food prices have soared.



Photo: Online

Heart facilities extended by Philanthropists at DHQ

Mian Rashid Asghar

FAISALABAD: Under the arrangements of "Heart Foundation Trust" the state-of-the-art 10-bed Cardiac Care Unit II was inaugurated at the District Headquarters Hospital with the support of a local philanthropist at the cost of 10 million. The Deputy Commissioner, Imran Hamid Sheikh, Chairman Trust Dr. Javed Iqbal and philanthropist inaugurated the newly constructed unit and visited the ward, inspected the free of cost medical facilities and machinery available for the treatment of patients suffering from heart disease and also visited the patients' under treatment.



Chairman APTAPMA Hafiz Sheikh Muhammad Asghar Qadri, Mian Latif, Nasir Zia, Sheikh Amjad, Rana Muhammad Asim, Aftab Gohar, representatives of Nawaz, Chatha and other industrialists, in-charge District Emer-

gency Operational Center Muhammad Sadiq and doctors of Cardiology were also present on this occasion.

The Deputy Commissioner thanked for financially supporting the Cardiac

Care Unit II and said that according to the vision of the Punjab government, the district administration is using all the available resources to expand the health sector, but Faisalabad philan-

thropists are cordially extending their cooperation for providing facilities to the patients. He said that due to the increasing number of heart diseases, the expansion of medical facilities is inevitable and he paid tribute to the efforts of those who participated in this charity event.

He further highlighted that the district administration is determined on giving values and the services of philanthropists who contribute to public welfare and also intend to provide them with an efficient and enjoyable platform. The cardiologist said that earlier 16 beds Unit I, is fully functional and modern medical facilities are being provided to patients suffering from heart diseases. He thanked the businessmen for their financial support and said that the establishment of Unit II has expanded the treatment as per ongoing needs of the patients.

7th Population and Housing Census started in AJK

Bureau Report

MUZAFFARABAD : Training of Enumerators (TOEs) regarding 7th Population and Housing Census are being conducted by Pakistan Bureau of Statistics, Ministry of Planning Development and Special Initiatives in all 10 districts of AJK w.e.f 07-01-2023 to 21-01-2023. Today Mr.Masood ur Rehman, Commissioner Muzaffarabad inaugurated the training session at Govt. Boys High School No.1 Muzaffarabad.

After introductory session, Commissioner Muzaffarabad addressed to the participants and expressed his views regarding census. He said that census is very important for proper distribution of resources and without the cooperation of school teachers big activities like census and elections cannot be conducted.

He advised to the enumerators to understand basic concepts and definitions and pay full attention towards the training so that the enumerators may prepare themselves for field operation of upcoming census he added.

The hunger strike of Dr Parveen Rind

Azad Baloch

DADU: The hunger strike of Dr Parveen Rind MBBS student of Peoples Medical University Nawabshah Shah entered in six the day before Dadu press club on Saturday.

She is continuing hunger strike along with her uncle Ali Nawaz Rind. DSP Dadu city Abdul Khaliq Wagon and SHO B section Dadu city Ghulam Hyder Chandio arrived at hunger strike camp and police officers asked them to end strike.

Dr Parveen Rind and her uncle Ali Nawaz Rind refused to end till FIR of attack on Dr Parveen Rind will not registered against the armed persons those have attacked on Dr Parveen Rind and her uncle few days back to with draw from harrasment case against director Ghulam Mustafa Rajpoot director of People medical university Nawabshah and others.

Speaking with Journalists, Dr Parveen Rind said that Dadu police was not ready to register FIR against the armed persons hiding on motorcycles have attacked on her and her uncle near police head quarter Dadu. She said that Dadu police was putting pressure to with draw from a case against director Ghulam Mustafa Rajpoot and others nominated in harrasment case. She said that lady police officer Dadu Benazir Jamali and SSP Dadu Abdul Khaliq Pirzado were supporting the accused hence they were not ready to register of FIR of attack on her and her uncle. She said that as soon as, bail of director Ghulam Mustafa Rajpoot was rejected, she and her uncle were attacked on the same day.

She said that Dadu police had received huge amount from accused nominated in FIR and police wants to kill.

She said that her life was at stake and SSP Dadu Abdul Khaliq Pirzado had removed her security as well as. She said that continuously she was receiving threats of killing if she would not with draw from the case of harrasment. She said that a fake FIR number 154 of harrasment was registered with B section police station of Dadu town against her brother Mohammad Aslam Rind, uncle Ali Nawaz Rind and Ali Ahmed Rind.

She said that this fake FIR was mnaaged by Dadu police to withdraw from the FIR against director Ghulam Mustafa Rajpoot and others. She said that police was threatening to register more fake FIRs against her and her relatives, if they will not with draw from case against director Ghulam Mustafa Rajpoot.

Speaking with Journalists, Ali Nawaz Rind said that if the justice would not be provided them and accused nominated in harrasment case of her nephew Dr Parveen Rind would not be arrested, they will continue the protest.

While, big number of political activists and human right activists of PTI, PMLN and nationalist parties and citizens visited hunger strike camp and assured Dr Parveen Rind to support her in protest against the police and accused nominated in harrasment case.

Akhuwat Foundation Makes Faisalabad, A city of brotherhood



Mian Rashid Asghar

FAISALABAD: Preparations are at foot to transform Faisalabad into a "City of Brotherhood" (Shahr-e-Akhwa) so that practical work on it could be launched during the second week of March with the collaboration of FCCI and Akhuwat. This was disclosed by Dr. Muhammad Amjad Saqib Founder & Chief Executive Officer of the Akhuwat Foundation during his visit to the Faisalabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (FCCI). He was warmly welcomed by President FCCI Dr. Khurram Tariq himself and his team.

Haji Muhammad Aslam Bhalli Vice President and Haji Muhammad Abid were also present in addition to Mian Muhammad Kamal-ul-Din, Moazam Bin Zahoor, Coordinator Abu Bakar and Focal Person of Akhuwat Mr. Muhammad Shahzad. Dr. Amjad Saqib explained the Islamic philosophy of "Mawakhat" and said that 1400 years ago Prophet Muhammad (Peace Be Upon Him) had adopted this strategy to absorb immigrants of Mecca in Medina so that they could overcome their poverty without begging.

He said that this philosophy is still relevant and he intends to practically implement it in Faisalabad in the first phase. He underlined the benefits of collective efforts and said that this historic migration cultivated deep rooted social, economic, moral and spiritual values in the entire Arabian Peninsula.

He mentioned that an education- a institution by the name of "Akhu-

wat-First" has been established in Abbaspur on main Jhang road Faisalabad over 27 acres of land which is currently offering biotechnology courses. "Now I intend to transform it into a centre of excellence for information technology", Dr. Saqib said and added that it has a boarding facility for 400 students, a spacious auditorium of 500 seating capacity in addition to IT labs and purpose-built classrooms. He said that instead of launching a 4-year degree program, he plans to introduce a one year diploma course. He further said that in order to strengthen the federation of Pakistan and promote brotherhood, students from all provinces would be given equal share in admission in this institution. About the outlines of the IT curriculum, he said that students after completing their FSc, would be given 6-month theoretical education followed by 4-month hands-on training.

Dr. Amjad Saqib also appreciated the humanitarian services of the inhabitants of Faisalabad district and said that we must pay them the best gratitude by acknowledging their meritorious services. Dr. Khurram Tariq President FCCI congratulated Dr. Amjad Saqib on receiving the "Ramon Magsaysay Award" in 2021 and his nomination for Nobel Peace Prize in 2022 and said that a special function would be arranged in the second week of March to commemorate these accreditations as it is an honour for Pakistan in general and for the residents of the city of Faisalabad in particular as he is the proud son of soil.

Construction of The Diabetes Centre (TDC) in Sahiwal begins

SAHIWAL: Construction of a hospital consisting of state-of-the-art facilities for diabetes and its related complications treatment has started in Sahiwal. In this connection, a groundbreaking ceremony was organized here today. The event commenced with the recitation of Verses from the Holy Quran.

Speaking at the occasion, Chairman TDC, Dr. Asjad Hameed delivered a detailed speech on TDC's journey, vision and expansion plans. Chaudhry Mustafa, an Australian Pakistani and land donor (8 Kanal) for the aforementioned hospital revealed the goals of the TDC Sahiwal Chapter.

Sheikh Muhammad Younis, a renowned industrialist of the area while expressing his views said with the construction of TDC in Sahiwal, a large number of the population in Punjab shall be catered quality treatment.

Sheikh Muhammad Younis thanked Chaudhry Mustafa and his brother Professor Javed Rashid for the donation of land and spoke high about TDC and its stern resolve to work tirelessly for a Diabetes free Pakistan.

The participation of the area's well-known personalities and residents made this ceremony memorable.



Islamabad
15° - 23° Clear

SERVICES

Namaz Timings

Fajr5:45 am
Zohr12:14 pm
Asr3:37 pm
Maghrib5:15 pm
Isha6:43 pm

EMERGENCY

Rescue (Police) 15
Bomb Disposal 15
Fire Services Rawalpindi/
Islamabad1122 & 16
Emergency Ambulance 1122 &
& Rescue Services 4451122
Motorway Police 9266044
Motorway Police 9270601-20

Women Police Stations

Islamabad 9222596
Rawalpindi 9270601-20

ENQUIRY

Edhi Ambulance115
PIA Flight Info 114
PIA Cargo 9280979
Railway Inquiry117
Railway Exchange 9270831-5
WASA Rawalpindi 5555489
CAA 9281092

HOSPITALS

CMH561111
MH561116
MH561116
Cantt Hospital9270907-11
DHQ5556311-4
RGH9290301-7
Holy Family9290322-7
PIMS9261170-79
Polyclinic 9218300-09
Shifa International4603666

DEPARTMENTS

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

COMPLAINTS

Water Tanker Service
E-7, F-10 & F-11 9204654
G-5, G-6, G-7, G-8 9203883
G-9, G-10, G-11, G-12, H-8 9266316
Wapda Islamabad 9217579-80
Sui Gas Complaint 119, 9272249
Wasa Water Tank
Rawalpindi 0331-5022125

Sanaullah hands over Rs10m cheque to family of martyred cop Adeel

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Interior Rana Sanaullah Khan on Wednesday handed over a cheque amounting to Rs10 million as compensation to the family of Police Head Constable Syed Adeel Hussain, who sacrificed his life in the line of duty by intercepting a suicide bomber in the Federal Capital's I-10/4 Sector on December 23.

"Besides, the government will provide a housing unit to the family of its own choice, worth Rs 12.5 million, a full pension coupled with allowances to the martyr's widow and bear educational expenses of the children, under the Prime Minister's package," the minister

said while paying tribute to the martyred policeman at a news conference here Saturday.

He said that the incumbent government had fully acknowledged the services and sacrifices of Islamabad Police, which was evident from the fact that it had paid arrears amounting to Rs 1.22 billion in 'one go' to the heirs/families of the martyrs, pending for many years.

Rana Sanaullah said that he had issued directives that a Superintendent of Police (SP) would hold a weekly sitting with the heirs of martyrs to solve their problems on priority.

He said it was unfortunate that some elements wanted to fan terror in society by spreading fake security-related threats

like the attack on the Parliament House through media. Such accused had been apprehended and were being investigated.

Rana Sanaullah said that it was decided in the National Security Council (NSC) meeting that there would be zero tolerance against the terrorists who wanted to destabilize the country.

All the institutions, he added, are working effectively to root out terrorism from the country and the nation should rest assured that terrorists will be dealt with iron hands.

Regarding the terrorist attacks during the last year, the minister said that around 67 percent incidents of terror had occurred in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and 31 percent in Balochistan, while only

one percent took place in Punjab and two percent in Sindh.

Rana Sanaullah appreciated the role of CTD Punjab and said that all the CTDs of other provinces should put maximum efforts to prevent terrorist attacks.

The minister assured that the Federal Government would provide maximum support and training especially to the CTDs of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan so that they could play their due role in curbing terrorism.

He said that the Afghan Government was a reality, adding that Pakistan wanted the Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) to surrender and efforts were underway to bring them on the negotiating table for the purpose.



Kinnow

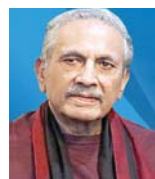
ISLAMABAD: Wholesale vendors are displaying Kinnow attraction for customers for selling purpose at fruit and vegetable market in Federal Capital. ONLINE PHOTO



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

A major health crisis engulfing the country

Tariq Khattak



ISLAM-ABAD: Former President of Islamabad Chamber

of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) Dr. Shahid Rasheed Butt on Saturday said there is a shortage of raw materials and medical equipment used in the manufacture of medicine in the country which is resulting in a major health crisis.

There is also a shortage of items used in laboratory tests, surgical instruments and other items resulting in problems, he said.

Shahid Rasheed Butt said that there has been a shortage of all kinds of medical equipment including life-saving drugs in the country, but the authorities are not ready to do anything in this regard.

He said that the government has announced the opening of letters of credit but according to the importers of the medical equipment, their LCs are not being opened resulting in a countrywide shortage.

The shortage of medicines in the local market has been going on for several months but now the situation is becoming alarming and no practical steps have been taken, he added.

The business leader said that another reason for the shortage of medicines is the poor system of regulating their prices which has remained a highly controversial issue.

Mr. Butt said that the last date for registration of medicines was December 31, 2022, in which an extension of at least three months is necessary so that precious lives are not lost due to a shortage of imported drugs and equipment.

The government should immediately end the delay in the issuance of LCs for the import of medical raw materials, chemicals and instruments to save the country from another serious crisis, he demanded.

Train coaches imported from China to uplift Pakistan Railways image

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: Train coaches imported from China are completely compatible with the local track and have been approved for a commercial run after the initial trial at one of the fastest tracks in Pakistan, an official of Pakistan Railways told on Saturday.

It is a standard protocol to test any new induction in the railways before putting it into commercial operations, Muhammad Hanif Gul, Divisional Superintendent of Lahore division at the Pakistan Railways said, adding that the same practice had been done to the coaches imported from China and they had successfully passed the trails.

"These are very good coaches with some enhanced features, the ergonomics are very good, technology is very good and when we use them in train services, people of Pakistan will have a very good experience," Gul said in an interview with Xinhua news agency.

From the contract to acquire 230 coaches from China, the first batch of 46 coaches arrived



in Pakistan at the end of last November and are currently parked in Lahore and are expected to start operations in the coming weeks.

Under the technology transfer agreement, the remaining coaches will be imported to Pakistan in the form of components and manufactured in Pakistan with China's technical assistance to enhance Paki-

stan's ability to produce trains independently.

The coaches were acquired through transparent bidding in which the Chinese company was preferred among all others from different countries, he said, adding that Pakistan provided a list of specifications according to local standards and the track and the trains were accordingly designed, Gul said.

Talking about the quality of the new addition from the perspective of passenger comfort, he said that they are very cozy with good seat width, corresponding to the anthropometric analysis of the population of Pakistan, and have an on-board washroom facility for mobility-impaired passengers, which is a new feature in Pakistan railways.

Cold, cloudy weather expected in most parts of country

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: Cold and cloudy weather is expected in most parts of the country. However, light rain with snow is likely in north Balochistan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Gilgit-Baltistan, Pothohar region and Kashmir. Dense fog is likely to prevail in upper Sindh and plain areas of Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Temperatures of some major cities recorded on Saturday morning. Islamabad, Quetta and Muzaffarabad seven degree centigrade, Lahore and Peshawar eight, Karachi sixteen, Gilgit minus two and Murree zero degree centigrade.

According to Met Office forecast for Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir, partly cloudy with chances of



rain during evening and night is expected in Srinagar and Pulwama, cold and dry with fog in Jammu, partly cloudy and very cold in Leh, Anantnag, Shopian and Baramulla. Temperature recorded.

Srinagar, Pulwama and Baramulla minus two degree centigrade, Jammu seven, Leh minus eleven, Anantnag and Shopian minus one degree centigrade.

On the other hand the traffic flow is slow in Peshawar

city with heavy fog gripping the entire surroundings and the visibility is very low, an official of the Met Office said. According to details, the traffic to other districts including Peshawar, Kohat, Dera Ismail Khan, Lakki Marwat is also affected due to heavy fog here on Saturday.

He said, due to heavy fog, the cold has increased and most people were confined to their homes due to fog intensity. However, a new spell of rain is

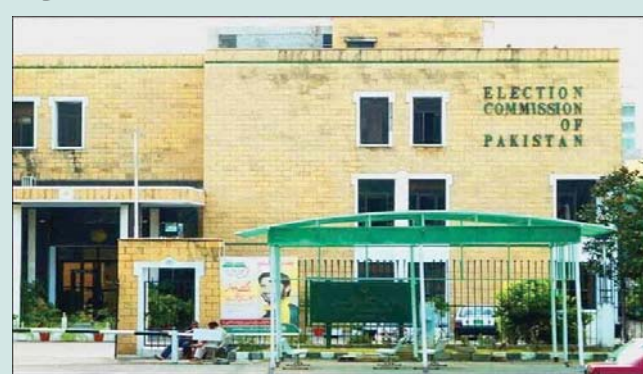
likely to occur in most districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa from today (Saturday), the Official of the Meteorological Department Khyber Pakhtunkhwa said.

The rain will continue intermittently till Monday said the official while talking to APP here on Saturday.

However, he said snowfall is also expected in hilly areas from Saturday and would continue up till Monday.

The Met Office Official also confirmed that heavy fog in Peshawar since early morning with the highway closed at certain points. He said, there is a possibility of rain in Peshawar, Dir, Chitral, Swat and Kohistan and snowfall on the mountains with Abbottabad, Bajaur, Kurram, Charsadda and Kohat likely to receive rain.

IHC's objection forces PTI to retract contempt of court plea against CEC



Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) on Saturday retracted its contempt of court plea against Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Sikandar Sultan Raja after the objection raised by the Islamabad High Court (IHC).

The registrar of the court had earlier objected how a contempt of court could be filed against the CEC.

PTI had filed a contempt of court plea against the CEC and the federal government after the ECP did not comply with the court's orders of holding local government elections in Islamabad on Dec 31. The PTI contended that as the ECP and the federal government had failed to conduct elections on the stipulated date, they had committed a crime rendering them liable to be proceeded under the contempt of court.

On Dec 31, the IHC had deferred the ECP and federal government's intra-court appeals against the IHC's orders for a week.

It is imperative to mention here that the ECP could not conduct elections because, according to sources, it lacked the required workforce. Moreover, the ECP told the court that it would be ready to hold elections in four months. On the other hand, Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah said up to five months were required to hold LG elections in the capital. It resulted in spat between the ruling coalition and the PTI.

Two injured in gas leakage blast in Islamabad

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: Two people were injured in a gas leakage blast in Islamabad's Sector F8-2 on Saturday. Both the injured were house servants. The explosion also caused damage to the house. One of the injured was given treatment on the spot while the other was rushed to the Burns Unit of PIMS Hospital. Margalla Police Station personnel rushed to the site and launched an investigation into the incident.

Int'l moot on 'Material Science and Smart Materials' kicks off at AIOU



News Desk

ISLAMABAD: A two-day international conference on "Material Science and Smart Materials" at Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU) started yesterday. Speakers emphasized the need to strengthen linkages between industry and academia for the country's development and wider economic interest. They added that this initiative will also help in developing new business models as economic stability is not possible without it. The speakers appreciated Professor Dr. Syed Zafar Ilyas for his scientific services at Allama Iqbal Open University and congratulated him for holding this conference.

The conference was organized by the Department of Physics, AIOU. Nuclear scientist Prof. Dr. NM Butt was the chief guest of the opening ceremony. Other speakers included Prof. Dr. Asghari Maqsood, Syed Javed Khurshid and Chairman, Department of Physics, AIOU, Prof. Dr. Syed Zafar Ilyas.

Prof. Dr. NM Butt, while presenting a paper on nanotechnology, said that revolutionary changes will take place with the help on nanotechnology in the field of science and technology in the 21st century. He said that human life is going to face an unimaginable revolution and companies from different fields around the world have started making different products through nanotechnology. He added that we must prepare our next generation as technology is evolving daily.

Professor Dr. Asghari Maqsood, while presenting a paper on material science and smart materials, called the X-ray machine the best invention of medical science. He gave a detailed lecture on X-ray machine reflection, radiation, X-ray equipment and its operation. Professor Dr. Syed Zafar Ilyas explained the aims and objectives of the conference. He said that this is the 135th conference of the Department of Physics in the last 12 years, the Department of Physics has produced 600 MPhil and 10 PhD scholars in this short period, while 35 PhD scholars are currently enrolled. He added that Scholars from 3 international and 70 national universities will present papers in this conference.

Group Chairman/Chief Editor: **Almas Ayoub Sabir**
 Vice Chairman: **Asim Nazir Ahmad**
 Managing Editor: **Naveed Ahmad Khan**
 Head Editorial Advisory Board: **Amjad Mehmood**
 Bureau Chief Karachi: **Saleem Zaman Khan.**
 (mszk786@gmail.com)
 Bureau Chief Lahore: **Syed Afraz Ali Nazish**
 (afrazalishah@gmail.com)
 Islamabad Office: **Rose Plaza, I-8 Markaz.**
 Karachi office: **Flat No.C.3.A.One Comfort, Block No 11.**
Gulshan-e-Iqbal, Main Rashid Minhas Road.
 Lahore Office: **7-E,Samanberg, Johar Town.**
 Email: **spokesmanislamabad@gmail.com**
 Whatsapp: **0346-5008408**

Lula has his work cut out to revive Brazil's fortunes

Ranvir S. Nayar

New Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva is a man in a hurry. In the first 24 hours after he was sworn in for his third term on Sunday, he signed a slew of decrees, bringing to life many of his campaign promises.

The decrees covered a wide range of social, economic and political issues. In all of his orders, he has tried to reverse the decisions taken by predecessor Jair Bolsonaro, who, in turn, had overturned several decisions made by the left-wing governments headed by Lula and his successor, Dilma Rousseff.

Lula has suspended new gun registrations for hunters, collectors and sports shooters for two months, saying that buying guns was not the same as buying tomatoes. The number of guns registered in this category had risen threefold during Bolsonaro's four-year tenure. Lula has also revived his doctrine of disarming civilians with his proposed new rules.

The second lot of decisions taken by Lula was also along expected lines, reviving efforts

to save the Amazon basin, where deforestation had risen alarmingly during Bolsonaro's term, as he had declared open season on the world's biggest rainforest. Under Bolsonaro, the Amazon was cleared at a rate of millions of acres every year by thousands of cattle ranchers, farmers and loggers. Added to this were forest fires, mainly started by the same people clearing the forests. As a result, according to estimates, the rate of deforestation doubled from about 1.6 million acres per year before Bolsonaro took over to 3.2 million acres in 2022.

Not only did Bolsonaro allow the pillaging of the rainforest and its biodiversity, but he also stopped foreign funds from being deployed to help with the conservation of the Amazon basin. With Lula in place, Germany and Norway say they will revive the fund.

Lula's first two terms were marked by his consistent efforts to reduce the gaping economic inequality prevailing in Brazil through economic assistance targeted at the most vulnerable sections of society. To continue with that mission, Lula has announced an extension of "Family Bag," an initiative launched by him that will see about \$130 per month going to

the poorest families. He has also announced a program to help garbage collectors.

These initiatives are welcome on almost every count. Gun violence has increased in Brazil, while the loss of Amazonian rainforest has not only been noticed by the outside world, but is also an important concern at all relevant international forums, notably climate change meetings.

But perhaps the greatest damage done during Bolsonaro's four years in power was toward the vast majority of Brazilians who are poor or extremely poor. According to estimates, more than half — or 125 million of the 215 million people in Brazil — face food insecurity and 30 million face hunger. These numbers are set to rise as the real impact of COVID-19 is captured by studies over the coming years. Hence, urgent and large-scale intervention by the government is of vital importance.

Though Lula's measures have been a key part of his campaign and even his earlier terms, implementing these reforms successfully, smoothly and in a timely fashion is going to be a monumental challenge. His first obstacle will be to transform the reforms from decrees to laws. Brazil is divided between

left and right-wing supporters. In October's elections, Bolsonaro and his right-wing allies won the largest number of seats in both houses of the Brazilian Parliament and they also bagged most of the gubernatorial positions in the provinces.

Also, in the presidential poll, Bolsonaro managed to dramatically narrow the gap with Lula and the final count saw Lula get 50.9 percent of the votes and Bolsonaro 49.1 percent. That means, of 124 million votes cast, fewer than 2 million separated the winner from the loser. Thus, though Bolsonaro may have lost the election, his support base will endure at the federal level, in the regions and also among many people.

Overcoming this divide may prove to be quite difficult, though Lula could perhaps, over time, convince Bolsonaro's supporters that his measures will benefit them and are what Brazil needs to ensure equitable and sustainable growth.

Yet another hurdle that Lula will have to deal with concerns the economic situation in Brazil. According to OECD estimates, after having grown at a rather modest rate of 2.8 percent in 2022, Brazil's gross domestic product will increase by just

1.2 percent this year and rise marginally to 1.4 percent in 2024. Low economic growth will certainly hurt the government's finances just at the time it wants to enhance its social spending. It will be a tightrope walk to ensure that economic growth does not stutter and that Lula is able to deliver on his promises, which are definitely the need of the hour.

Here, Lula's past experience will help him. After all, when he first took charge, Brazil was in a similar situation — low economic growth, very high inequality and rising hunger. Lula not only managed to tackle the problems, but he also made Brazil a darling of overseas investors, sending economic growth soaring. And his social spending programs registered clear and visible impacts on society, particularly the weakest sections.

Lula could easily turn to his handbook from the past and also learn to live with a less than sympathetic parliament, as long as he is able to bridge the gap with the right wing. It would of course help if Bolsonaro continues to stay in the US, where he went hours before Lula was sworn in.

Writer is managing editor of Media India Group.

President imposes fine on UBL

President Dr Arif Alvi has imposed a fine of Rs 20,000 on United Bank Ltd (UBL) over filing a frivolous representation in a disputed transaction case involving a mere amount of Rs 20,000 only.

He further ordered that the bank should pay the fine in addition to returning the defrauded amount to its customer as the bank adamantly filed frivolous representation wasting its resources and time as well of the Banking Mohtasib of Pakistan (BMP) and the office of the Head of State, President Secretariat Press Wing said in a press release on Saturday.

UBL had filed a representation with the President against the orders of the BMP in a case where a customer had attempted to withdraw cash of Rs 20,000 from UBL's ATM but the cash was not dispensed whereas the customer's account was debited.

The customer had also filed a complaint and submitted the Dispute Settlement Form but his complaint was rejected summarily. Feeling aggrieved, he had raised the matter with the BMP, which passed the orders of returning the disputed amount to the customer.

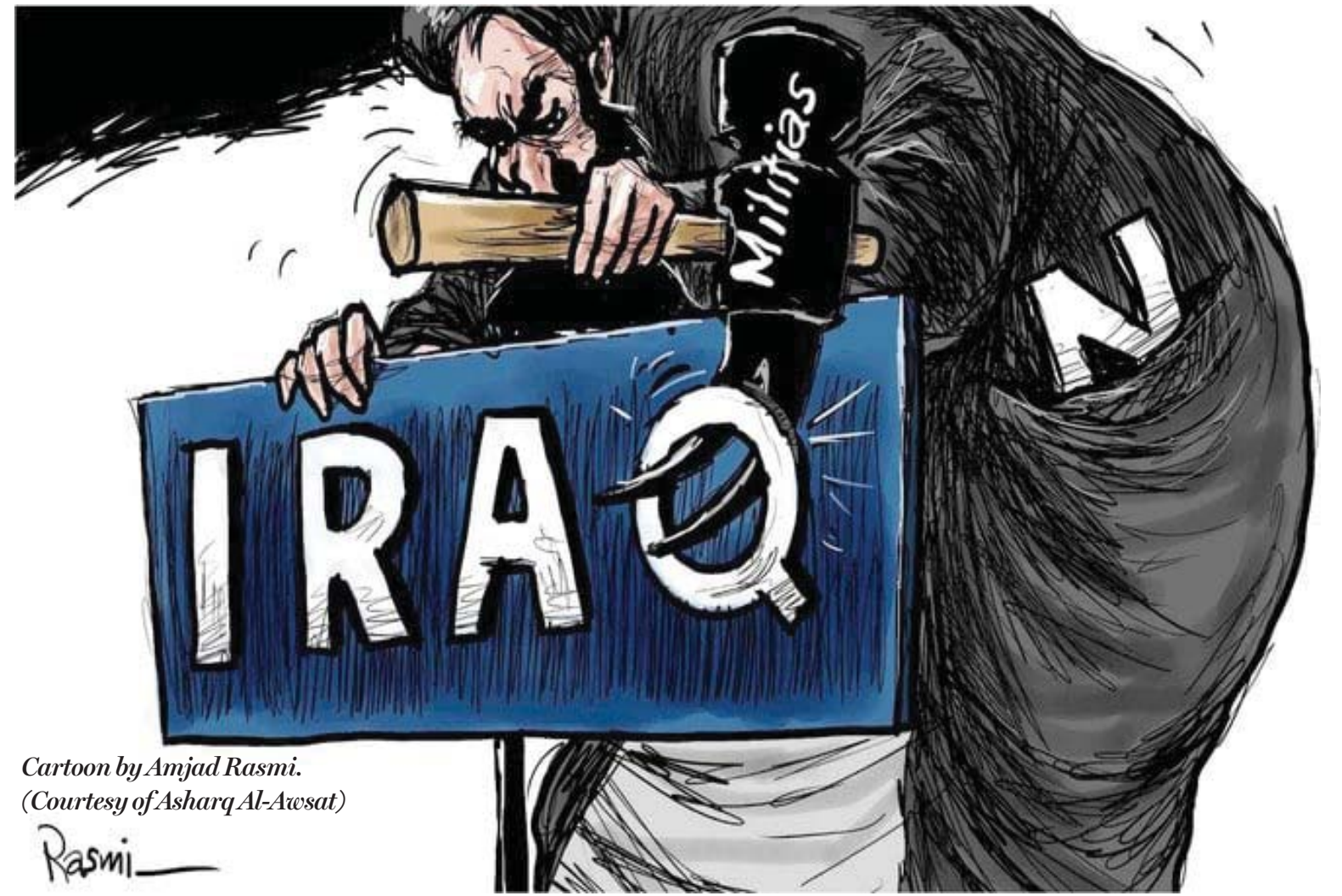
The president rejected the UBL's representation on the grounds that the bank had failed to discharge the burden and statutory liability cast upon it under the law by failing to comply with the State Bank of Pakistan's directives that the banks should install external cameras in ATM cabins within three months from the date of issue of SBP's circular to have secondary evidence against cash claims to satisfy the customers.

He further observed that the bank also failed to comply with SBP's instructions that for record keeping relating to complaints, banks were required to follow instructions contained in Prudential Regulations, and where CCTV footage was considered part of circumstantial evidence, it must be retained at least for two months, and for complaints escalated to Courts, all related evidence should be retained till the final decision.

The president held that UBL had failed to provide its investigation report and requisite information to BMP office despite follow up and being given the opportunity during the hearing as well.

The president rejected the UBL's representation filed against the orders of the BMP wherein BMP had rejected the view point of the bank terming it baseless and without any evidence and directed the Bank to pay the defrauded amount of Rs 20,000 to the complainant and report compliance within 30 days.

He also upheld the order of BMP and also imposed a fine of 20,000 on the bank for filing an appeal in a case where meagre amount was involved and was less than even the cost of litigation and was frivolous.



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

Climate movement inspires optimism at start of New Year

May Boeve

Last year was a tumultuous one in many ways. While climate-related shocks became even more prevalent and severe, Russia's invasion of Ukraine triggered a global energy crisis that continues to affect millions of people's lives and livelihoods. Following that shock, unprecedented heat waves across Europe, Asia and North America, and then devastating flooding in Pakistan, highlighted the urgency of reducing our fossil fuel dependency and reshaping our energy systems.

Fortunately, other big developments in 2022 offered grounds for hope. The passage of the US Inflation Reduction Act — the largest emissions-reduction investment in the country's history — was a landmark achievement.

Historically, the US has been the world's biggest carbon polluter and one of the biggest laggards in international forums. But this legislation should put it on a course to reduce its own emissions sharply, which will help drive down the price of renewable energy around the world. Many emerging markets and developing countries will have a chance to leapfrog past coal-fired power plants.

Finally, other positive climate policy developments in 2022 included the launch of Just Energy Transition Partnerships in Indonesia, South Africa and Vietnam. With the goal of helping countries leapfrog past fossil fuels, these partnerships — if done right — could be game-changers in the global transition to renewable energy.

The international community also did more to protect nature in 2022. As the year drew to a close, governments at the UN Biodiversity Conference, known as COP15, adopted the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework — a deal that many observers are likening to the landmark 2015 Paris climate agreement. With a commitment to protect 30 percent of all land and sea areas by 2030, the framework opens a new chapter, following the collective failure to meet any of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets for 2020.

Governments and other stakeholders are finally recognizing that climate change and biodiversity loss are inextricably linked. Rainforests and mangroves are not just habitats for millions of species, they are also crucial for slowing the pace of global heating because they absorb and store vast amounts of carbon dioxide. Scientists have shown that conservation, ecosystem restoration and the better management of natural areas could contribute more than a third of the emissions reductions that we need by 2030. More to the point, there is simply no way of limiting the global temperature rise to no more than 1.5 degrees Celsius without reversing the decline of nature.

The COP15 deal also explicitly recognizes that Indigenous peoples are central to protecting nature and it calls on rich countries to mobilize \$30 billion per year in biodiversity financing for developing countries by 2030.

But setting targets is merely the first step. We must move at an unprecedented pace to restore biodiversity and halt global warming. That means remaining alert

to vested interests' efforts to block progress and pushing back against false solutions, such as carbon offsetting, nuclear energy and hydraulic fracking. Restoring nature must not come at the expense of local communities. To create and nurture a healthier relationship with the environment, we should take our cues from Indigenous peoples.

Outside of UN conferences and corporate boardrooms, a quiet revolution is gathering speed. Those demanding more financing for locally owned renewable energy systems are piercing through the long-standing barriers and refusing to be marginalized. They are building a new consensus and making clear that matters of climate justice are nonnegotiable.

I consider this quiet revolution to be one of the most exciting things that has happened over the past decade. The cyclical interplay of progress and retrogression is an enduring feature of policymaking — and of nature itself. The inevitable slumps must be met not with despair but with hope for the next upswing. While the 2022 energy crisis created a new pretext for those advocating greater investment in fossil fuels, such investments are rapidly becoming financial losers, because renewables are becoming cheaper than fossil fuels.

Around the world, communities, towns, cities and regions are experimenting with creative climate solutions. We must identify the ones that work, mobilize support for them and scale them up. That is how we will launch the decisive next phase of the decades-long fight against climate change and environmental destruction.

Cooperation can help world get through fiscal crisis

Dr. Bashayer Al-Majed

As we start the new year, things are definitely not looking too bright financially for many countries, with gross domestic product forecasts pretty flat and inflation common. The UK recently announced average annual household fuel bill increases of £500 (\$601), although Europe's recent mild weather has led to a drop in gas demand and a subsequent drop in the wholesale gas price in the region. Europe certainly must be breathing a sigh of relief, as governments had warned last year that this winter might see citizens experience planned power cuts due to insufficient gas supply caused by the conflict in Ukraine. For some countries, this would be for the first time in 50 years.

Nonetheless, inflation is still an issue. This reduces the value of people's savings and pensions, which can be problematic if people are about to retire. Likewise, for people wishing to buy property, particularly first-time buyers, mortgage interest rates are far higher, while banks are no longer willing to bail out failing businesses or individuals or indeed create new money to add into the market.

Higher interest rates are the banks' way of discouraging those without the means to pay back loans or mortgages to take them out in the first place. However, it is inevitable that there will always be those who either cannot bring themselves to wait until the uncertainty levels off or perhaps need a loan to manage the harder times or to invest to keep their business engaging to the market. Of those, there will be a proportion who will default on these higher-interest loans.

Occasionally, as seen in the lifting of lockdowns, these downturns can help local economies. Instead of splashing out on big holidays abroad, people take weekend breaks locally or treat themselves more frequently to little luxuries to raise their spirits.

Good news for those wanting a stable, modest investment, governments needing to borrow money to pay off COVID-19 costs and other overspending have increased the repayment yield on 10-year gilts (government bonds), many to over 200 percent, over the past year. Of course, even with this increase, bond yields are low compared to the stock markets. But observing some of the devastating losses on the cybercurrency market last year, not least FTX's unexpected failure due to Sam Bankman-Fried's blatant disregard for his investors, deceptively using their funds to ill-advisedly reinvest elsewhere, a modest interest rate may be just right for some.

After the past couple of years, with the pandemic and its related lockdowns, an unexpected increase in the effects of global warming (plus more to come with the costs of preventive measures and damage control), the invasion of Ukraine pushing up gas and oil prices and resultantly the cost of grain and logistics (which depend on gasoline), and the crashing of the cybercurrency market, the global market could do with some financial stability and security.

It will be interesting to see how the global powers play this out, with forecasts predicting strong GDP growth for India, South Korea and Indonesia. With severe downturns in growth in the richer nations, they could really play well and drive for financial and power equality, but being more vulnerable to the effects of climate change, they will need to push for good deals for support.

Nations need to work together more than ever before to support one another and make the best use of global resources, while building viable solutions for peace, energy, crop production and transport, and mitigating the impacts of climate change. Let us hope our governments can introduce sensible fiscal policies and that nations worldwide can put their differences aside and build an equal, safe and financially stable and prosperous future for us all.

Dr. Bashayer Al-Majed is a professor of law at Kuwait University and visiting fellow at Oxford

Pakistan can certainly enhance its exports to Kazakhstan: Envoy

Bureau Report

LAHORE: The Ambassador of Kazakhstan, Yerzhan Kistafin noted a number of problems that were impeding trade between the two nations, including a lack of connectivity, a lack of visa regime for business people and inadequate logistic solutions.

He was speaking at the Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry. LCCI President Kashif Anwar presented the address of welcome, Senior Vice President Zafar Mahmood Chaudhry, former SVP Amjad Ali Jawa, LCCI Executive Committee Members Raja Hassan Akhter, Muhammad Usman Sheikh, Muhammad Waseem Yousaf, Ahmad Elahi and Fareeha Younis also spoke on the occasion.

The ambassador said that Kazakhstan's Deputy Prime Minister led a delegation to Pakistan where they signed MoUs with several banks. He continued, "We are striving to create a system for exchanging money, adding that we are beginning to offer flights from Lahore and Karachi to Almaty this year."

He said that he had discovered a technique to simplify the visa procedure. If a member sends a LCCI letter with their passport and requests to travel to Kazakhstan, we can issue them a visa in no more than five days. He said that the Kazakhstan Honorary Consul General in Lahore was also qualified to ease the visa process.

He added that in order to improve regional connectivity, we have conducted

a number of sessions with the National Logistic Cell and now the NLC will be delivering goods between the two countries. He said that TCS has also established the service of delivering goods with insurance.

The Ambassador said that we are working hard to assist business people in order to develop B2B relations which the Ambassador described as brothers-to-brothers relations.

He said that we are also organizing different sessions to promote business between two countries. The President Lahore Chamber is invited to participate in those sessions which will likely be organized after Ramadan.

He invited the President Lahore Chamber to lead a delegation to Kazakhstan and see with his own eyes what great potential Kazakhstan offered. Upon which LCCI President Kashif Anwar accepted his offer and said we will surely plan a delegation to visit Kazakhstan.

He said that Pakistan and Kazakhstan are both important member states of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, Economic Cooperation Organization and Shanghai Cooperation Organization.

The LCCI President said that according to the statistics by the State Bank, Pakistan has been maintaining a favourable trade balance with Kazakhstan as our exports stood at \$80 million in 2020-21 whereas the imports from Kazakhstan were just \$2.5 million. That made the total volume of trade



at around \$82.5 million in 2020-21.

Kashif Anwar said that however in 2021-22, we have seen some improvements both in imports and exports between two countries. Pakistan's exports reached the level of 108 million dollars while imports also surged to \$58 million.

That has resulted in taking the value of bilateral trade to \$166 million which

is almost double as compared to previous fiscal year. We need to maintain this trend to further exploit the untapped potential of bilateral trade.

He added that the main items of Pakistan's exports to Kazakhstan include rice, oil seeds and fresh fruits etc. whereas the imports from Kazakhstan comprise mostly of chemicals.

The LCCI President said that Paki-

stan has huge potential of exporting various items to Kazakhstan. The total global imports of Kazakhstan are in excess of \$41 billion. The pharmaceutical imports of Kazakhstan are around \$1.7 billion.

The furniture imports of Kazakhstan are \$705 million while the footwear imports are \$550 million. Talking about textiles, Kazakhstan imports of articles

of apparel are in excess of \$478 million. Among other products, the edible fruit imports are nearly \$465 million.

Pakistan can certainly enhance its exports to Kazakhstan in these sectors. There is also a considerable potential of joint ventures in the areas of tourism and energy. Kazakhstan can also benefit from the expertise of Pakistan in the IT sector.

He said that in order to enhance the volume of trade, more tradable items should be identified while keeping in view the market demands in two economies. Both countries can benefit from strengthening of cooperation through regional connectivity to major cities of Kazakhstan like Almaty, Astana and Shymkent with Lahore and Karachi which are the commercial hubs of our country. Joint ventures in the fields of oil & gas, petro-chemical industries may be a "strategic step" in the right direction.

"We believe that exchange of trade queries through your Embassy can play a helping role in increasing trade activities between two countries", he added.

He expressed satisfaction on the recent developments. Kazakhstan and Pakistan signed nine documents during the last meeting of the Pakistan-Kazakhstan intergovernmental commission that include six memoranda on the supply of goods to Kazakhstan in March-June 2023. These arrangements would hopefully further strengthen the mutual trade ties between two countries.

Pakistani traders display handicrafts at Industry Fair in China

News Desk

BEIJING: Pakistani traders showcased high-end Pakistani handicrafts at the 7th Sanya International Cultural Industry Fair (SICIF) held in the coastal city of Sanya, Hainan, China.

"Our expectation from this Fair is to get wholesale buyers who can do business with us in the future," said Abdul Basit Khan, CEO of Pak Link Enterprises.

The fair, held last week, brought together global cultural industry resources and tourism products, highlighting their role in trading and creating an important platform for more cultural exports, CEN reported.

A Pakistan Pavilion was also set up at the fair where products with Pakistani characteristics like wood crafts, onyx, cashmere, handmade rugs and shawls shined and attracted a large number of Chinese visitors.



Consul General of Pakistan in Guangzhou, China, Dr. Diyar Khan represented Pakistan at the fair and introduced Pakistani handicrafts and

cultural items at Pakistani stalls and Pakistan's relations with China, particularly the province of Hainan.

Abdul Basit Khan said, "Every year Hainan sees millions of people visit, so we hope that through this window we can display Pakistani products and get good results."

He said that the main goal for the fair was not just the four days because they could continue to do business with customers they met here.

The 7th SICIF attracted more than 260 cultural and tourism enterprises from 32 countries and regions - including Pakistan, Nepal, Iran, Yemen, and Afghanistan - to participate in the exhibition, displaying more than 40,000 trendy cultural goods and services.

As many as 13 cooperation contracts in the cultural and tourism industry were inked worth more than 2.7 billion.

The so-called 'retaliation' measures by Israel against the sovereign

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: The colonial occupier's vindictive measures against the Palestinian people are a direct assault on the UNGA's request for an advisory opinion from the ICJ on the legal standing of Israel's illegal domination over the Palestinian people and the responsibilities of states;

They are an affront to the ICJ, which is at the apex of the international legal order and the minimum necessary for its maintenance; Palestine reaffirms that the international community has a duty to act now to protect its inherent right to seek the counsel and opinion of the ICJ;

States must ensure that Israel ceases its sanctions against the Palestinian people and submit to the rules-based international order or be prepared to receive the treatment owed to pariah states;

Israel cannot tolerate accountability. It lashes out at its very suggestion. It is used to bullying its way out of any dilemma and getting away with it;

It must be confronted with unequivocal international measures that stand on principle and affirm the obligation of all states to comply with the law, including facing accountability when warranted;

Israel must understand that the time for accountability is now and it is inescapable;

Palestine shall continue its pursuit of all peaceful, political, legal, and diplomatic means to realize the inalienable rights of our people to return, self-determination, and to independence and sovereignty in their State of Palestine, with East Jerusalem as its capital.

Government's people friendly policies being hailed by all and sundry : PM AJK

Abdul Majeed Tahir

MUZAFFARABAD: Prime Minister Azad Jammu and Kashmir Sardar Tanveer Ilyas Khan has said that the present government has gained the full support and trust of the masses due to its people friendly initiatives.

"Tax net will be increased to 1 lakh users by introducing public friendly system", the PM said that the people have appreciated the government's policy to bring reforms in different sectors.

"We are all united with regard to the welfare and development of state and we all have to play a responsible role to meet the challenges", he said.

Talking about increasing the tax net and making the tax system people-friendly, he said that the current



government has increased the number of tax filers from 5 thousand to 37 thousand.

At present, he said, there are 37 thousand registered taxpayers in Azad Kashmir.

"There were misunderstandings among the people regarding tax which are being removed and the tax system

is being made more simple and people friendly", the PM said adding that for the convenience of the people, the date of submission of tax returns is being extended till February 27.

The PM appreciated the efforts of Inland Revenue and finance Minister Abdul Majid Khan and his team for their significant contribution in the expansion of tax net in the region. He said that the number of tax filers would be taken up to one lakh and a special budget would be allocated to the department for public awareness in this regard.

The Prime Minister directed the Income Tax Department to conduct an awareness campaign and explain its usefulness to the people by launching a door to door campaign.

Jetstar plane makes emergency landing in Japan due to bomb threat

TOKYO: A Jetstar flight made an emergency landing at Chubu Centrair International Airport in central Japan on Saturday due to a bomb threat, though no device was found, officials said.

The runway at the airport was closed after the flight from Narita airport near Tokyo, bound for Fukuoka in southern Japan, landed at 7:41 am (2241 GMT on Friday), but resumed operations at 12:15 pm after safety was confirmed, the spokesman said.

There were 136 passengers and 6 crew members on board, the spokesman said. Five sustained minor injuries while evacuating from the plane, an official at the Chubu airport police said.

No explosives or other suspicious objects were found in a search of the cabin and luggage, the official said.

President AJK inaugurates dual Carriageway Roads in Mirpur

By Spokesman Report

MIRPUR: President Azad Jammu and Kashmir Barrister Sultan Mahmood Chaudhry here on Saturday inaugurated 14 km long three important Dual Carriageway Roads in lake view city of Mirpur costing one billion and 10 crore rupees.

Addressing the inauguration ceremony the President said that the federal government was requested to provide funds to Azad Kashmir so that it can complete work on the ongoing development projects across the liberated territory. Drawing

parallels between Indian occupied Kashmir and Azad Kashmir he said that if an airport can be built in Srinagar then an airport should also be built in Mirpur.

Earlier, Barrister Sultan Mahmood Chaudhry who was accompanied by government ministers including Chaudhry Arshad Hussain and Chaudhry Yasir Sultan laid the foundation stone of the 3.25 km long Dual Carriageway road from Mangala Entry Point to Sahib Chak in Mirpur. The road will be completed at the cost of 354 crore seventy six thousand

rupees. Later on the president laid a foundation stone of the 7.5 km dual carriageway Road from Y-cross to Chowk Shaheedan to Kotli Road costing 54 crores rupees. He also inaugurated the project of construction of 3 km long Hall Road in Mirpur city at a cost of 25 crore 14 lakh 32 thousand rupees.

Barrister Sultan Mahmood Chaudhry was given a detailed briefing on the project. Speaking on the occasion he said that Azad Kashmir's competition in terms of development was not with the provinces of Pakistan, but with India. Referring to

his visit to occupied Kashmir, he said, "I have visited Occupied Kashmir and have seen the conditions there".

He said that there was a dire need that the pace of development work in Azad Kashmir should improve.

Good roads and better transportation facilities, he said would lead to development of business and establishment of industries in the state.

Later, President Barrister Sultan Mahmood Chaudhry, chaired a special meeting in which he was given a detailed briefing regarding the delay in



the construction of the Rathoa Hariyam Bridge. The meeting was attended by government Minister Chaudhry Arshad Hussain, Minister for Physical Planning and Housing

Chaudhry Yasir Sultan, Member Legislative Assembly Chaudhry Qasim Majeed, Secretary Presidential Affairs Dr. Asif Hussain, Commissioner Mirpur Division Chaudhry Shaukat, DIG Mirpur Khalid Chauhan, and several others.

President Azad Jammu and Kashmir Barrister Sultan Mahmood Chaudhry said that emergency measures should be taken immediately for the completion of Rathoa Hariyam Bridge and the third revised PC 1 should be prepared immediately by getting the services of a consultant in this regard.

IS Indus & Suzuki Motors already closed

Millat and Al-Ghazi Tractors completely shutdown amidst uncertainties in the country

IS Naveed Ahmad Khan

ISLAMABAD : The Pakistan Association of Automotive Parts & Accessories Manufacturers (PAAPAM) on Saturday appealed the government as well as the opposition parties to sit together and find ways to pull country out of the crises through dialogue, as two major tractor plants of Millat and Al-Ghazi have completely shutdown amidst uncertainties in the country.

In a joint statement, issued here, PAAPAM Senior vice chairman Usman Aslam Malik and LCCI President Kashif Anwar observed that we should save the state first, then politics, before we arrive at the point of no return.

A delegation of the Pakistan Association of Automotive Parts & Accessories Manufacturers (PAAPAM) led by SVC Usman Aslam Malik had met the President of Lahore Chamber of Commerce & Industry (LCCI), Kashif Anwar and Vice President Adnan Butt. The other PAAPAM delegates of this contingent consisted of VC PAAPAM, Taufiq Sherwani, former Chairman PAAPAM, Mumshad Ali, former VC

Irfan Ahmed Qureshi, Javed Hafiz, Shouban Akhtar, and Secretary General Ghulam Murtaza. The meeting was held amid rampant uncertainties for the tractor and auto parts industry when Millat and Al-Ghazi Tractors plants shut down due to low sales and held sales tax refunds. The total closure of the tractor industry has put all stakeholders at staggering and crippling effects at the grassroots level. The SVC PAAPAM, Usman Aslam Malik, sensitized the government to the hovering food shortage if the Government did not take prompt measures to bail out the industry.

Both bodies also suggested the government to offer an amnesty scheme for foreign currency holders to channel. The earlier announcement of amnesty by the Government through voluntary disclosure of foreign currency would support the ebbing foreign reserves. The currency holders may be offered reasonable interest during a stipulated period before declaring them white.

Both leaders noted localization as the sustainable solution to economic problems. We need to prioritize



the deletion of import as No.1 and export as No.2. They appreciated the Government scheme Jawan Rozgar but emphasized an agile mechanism to transfer its benefits to the grassroots level. We need to construct our economic muscles through indigeni-

zation. The fraternity leaders agreed about the plunging auto and tractor industries, which were becoming convoluted with the acute food insecurity for which we did not have any foreign exchange if we had to import. The joint declaration further said

that the fair and exhibitions were the most effective tools to support foreign reserves, but ironically State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) was creating podiums for the funds to Trade Development Authority (TDAP) to hold scheduled fairs. The import constraints on raw

materials, machinery, and parts used in the process were imprudent decisions as it has shackled the industry and promoted employment vulnerability in the country. Government must contrast between luxury imports and raw materials; they pointed out.

Both the leadership showed consensus to sit together periodically on national issues and demanded the Government to constitute consistent and sustainable policies with broad-based consultation with the business community.

Earlier, Suzuki Motors suspended production activities from Jan 2 to till date. The firm stated that its supply chain is affecting due to restrictions of the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP).

The export consignments are affecting due to the conditional permission, said the company, adding that the restriction damaged the inventory.

Indus Motor Company already had announced to shut down its manufacturing plant due to the imposition of a ban on the imports of completely knocked down (CKD) kits by the central bank.

Negative policies torturing masses



IS Tariq Khattak

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Economy Watch (PEW) on Saturday said the public's anxiety has increased and a good number of people are disappointed about the future of the country.

Despite the challenging situation, important economic decisions are being politicized and these wrong policies are not benefiting the government, but harming the public, it said.

The economic conditions of the country have been bad for the past several years, but now the situation has become alarming and the masses are getting disappointed about the future of the country, said Dr. Murtaza Mughal, President of PEW.

He said that the country's economy is nosediving, there are no new jobs and existing jobs are also decreasing in various sectors and the country's default has become the most important issue of discussion among the public.

Dr. Murtaza Mughal said that the agriculture, industrial and service sectors are in decline and the country's population is getting poor day by day.

Masses have been forced to cut essential expenses while education and health have become a luxury ending the prospects for future development, he noted.

Small businessmen are worried about the situation while many entrepreneurs are moving their businesses and capital abroad out of desperation which will not be good for Pakistan.

Youth are leaving the country in large numbers which has never been seen in the past which indicates that they see no future for themselves in Pakistan.

He said that the majority of local and foreign investors are considering an investment in Pakistan as a high-risk deal while the majority of people believe that politicians lack any solution to the existing problems and they have no desire for it because their attention is focused on politics and serving the elite.

Elites are becoming more influential and they are successfully producing desired outcomes which are squeezing the masses facing multiple problems.

Establishment of Saudi-Pakistan Tech House announced

IS News Desk

LAHORE : HRH Prince Fahad bin Mansour Al Saud, during a virtual address to Future Fest stakeholders, announced the establishment of a dedicated Saudi-Pakistan Tech House to promote greater ease of doing business. Indeed, HRH Prince Fahad bin Mansour Al Saud is a co-founder of tech giant ILSA Interactive, which was first founded in 2009 by Pakistani entrepreneur Salman Nasir. It stands as a great hallmark of Pakistan-Saudi digital collaboration excellence.

To this end, HRH Prince Fahad bin Mansour Al Saud also announced a further 300+ projects for the company with 100 Million project value, creating more than a 1000+ jobs in Pakistan, Saudi Arabia and globally.

"I'm deeply honored to be a part of such a respected and prestigious gathering of the IT industry with thought leaders of Pakistan at the country's largest tech conference and expo, Future Fest 2023. My journey to Pakistan started 5 years ago to explore the possibilities of establishing an IT company in Lahore.

Let me say that the resources in Pakistan are very talented in all fields; Technical Resources, User Experience and Qual-



ity Assurance resources have been great to work with."

He further added, "At Future Fest 2023, I am pleased a delegation of Saudi startups & venture capitalists will have a chance to meet Pakistani companies and key stakeholders to explore investments, partnerships, acquisitions, and talent recruitment."

During his address, Prince Fahad bin Mansour Al Saud highlighted the Kingdom's Vision 2030 roadmap under the leadership of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Salman, which has seen the booming of the technology sector

along with major new smart cities like NEOM. He emphasised how companies such as ILSA Interactive are reflective of the determination of both Pakistani and Saudi leaders to further deepen an existing strategic relationship in all fields with plans to forge partnerships with IT companies, Universities and big enterprises in Pakistan.

On announcing the establishment of the Saudi-Pakistan Tech House, Prince Fahad bin Mansour Al Saud confirmed that the House will be headquartered in Riyadh, with its first branch in Lahore

SECP apprised digital lenders on new regulatory requirements

IS Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) briefed the non-banking finance companies (NBFCs) on improved regulatory requirements, recently imposed through Circular No 15 to address the complaints of mis-selling, inflated charges and undue access to customers data. Senior management of all the licensed NBFCs, engaged in digital lending participated in the online session.

Giving an overview of the circular's key requirements, SECP Executive Director Khalida Habib informed the participants that the SECP has imposed restrictions on deducting upfront charges from the lent amount. Moreover, the lending companies stopped from operating more than one digital App at Google Play store or any other platform. However, they can launch different products and schemes under one Master App.

Companies that are already running more than one App, have been asked to identify one Master App and shutdown the other apps within 90 days. The companies are also required to

maintain confidentiality of user data and provide audit reports of their apps from a PTA approved IT security audit firm. Digital lenders are also required to disclose their full corporate name on their mobile applications.

SECP's Additional Joint Director Ahmad Abdul Moiz Khawaja briefed the participants on regulations regarding clear disclosures of loan terms & conditions, requirements of managing credit risk, advertisements, grievance redressal systems and loan collection methods. He conveyed the NBFC companies cannot change the terms of the loan agreement without prior consent of the borrower.

The SECP has issued digital lending license to M/s Sarmaya Microfinance (Pvt.) Limited, M/s Cashew Financial Services Limited, M/s Credit Fix Financial Services Limited, M/s Qisst-pay BNPL Private Limited, M/s Seedcred Financial Services Limited, M/s Finja Lending Services Limited, M/s Tez Financial Services Limited, M/s Abhi Private LTD, M/s Micro Cred Financial Services Ltd, and M/s Humraah Financial Services Limited.

Illegal Occupation

KARACHI: Residents of Lyari hold a protest against electric city and gas loadshedding at Maripur Road in Provincial Capital.



Photo: Online

Day 2 of Future Fest witnesses over 10'000 attendees

IS News Desk

LAHORE: The second day of Pakistan's largest tech conference and expo, Future Fest witnessed over 10'000 attendees, 70 exhibitors, and 60 speakers including powerful keynote from Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Youth Affairs, Shaza Fatima Khawaja on the need for engaging Pakistan's vibrant youth across the various facets of technology for a prosperous and brighter future.

The second day of Future Fest also witnessed the signing of an important MoU, under which Tracking.me, a company that sells Saudi made hardware and



software, is acquiring Telematics Private Limited, a local distributor in Pakistan known for selling Saudi made tracing devices. This follows the powerful announcement earlier on the eve of Future Fest from HRH Prince Fahad bin Mansour Al Saud, on the establishment of a dedicated Saudi-Pakistan Tech

House and his announcement of creating a further 300+ projects for his company Isla Interactive with 100 Million project value, creating more than a 1000+ jobs in Pakistan, Saudi Arabia and globally.

Day 2 also featured an interactive meditation performance, "How to awaken the giant" by

Naeem Zamindar, Founder Neem. Keynote sessions were given by Ikram Sehgal, Chairman, Pathfinder Group, Usman Asif, CEO, DevsInc, Sadaffe Abid, CEO, Circle, AVM(R.) Dr. Rizwan Riaz, Pro-Rector Research, Innovation, Commercialization, RIC NUST, Khawar Naeem, Country Head, 10 Cent, Wasif Hussain, Creative Director, Collabs, Haasan Rizwan, Founder/CEO, SABAQ, Habib Saqib, Founder, Head of Business, FasalPay, Adnan Qureshi, Project Director, vFairs, and Hassan Rizwan, Founder & CEO, SABAQ.

Later in the day, an approximate 50 sessions were held including master classes, fireside chats, and

panel discussions from top industry leaders who talked about diverse subjects ranging from web3, scaling tech, worldview, gaming, storytelling, policy, governance, EdTech and Skills.

Indeed, Future Fest 2023 is hosting a historic delegation of Saudi startups and venture capitalists who are meeting Pakistani companies and key stakeholders to explore investments, partnerships, acquisitions, and talent recruitment. Dedicated to using technology to pave the way for the future of Pakistan, the event has brought together leaders from more than 50 industries to foster discussion on the future of life itself.

OPPO shows the Cutting Edge Technologies of Tomorrow



IS Spokesman Report

LAHORE : OPPO leads the road to future by showcasing the technology of tomorrow, its high-end flagship products and record-breaking smart technologies at Expo Center to set the trend for upcoming technology. The event sees the introduction of several new cutting-edge technologies developed under OPPO's Future Vision of safest and fastest charging technology, smart connectivity and an integrated ecosystem.

Members of the public are invited to join the event, to discover more about how OPPO is empowering a better future where everyone can live their best lives.

OPPO continues to grow steadily on the global market that brings it on par with its theme of "Open for More" in coming times. OPPO is showcasing its 240W SUPERVOOC Flash Charge Technology, OPPO Pad, OPPO

Watch 3 Pro, OPPO TV R1 65, OPPO Find X5 Pro and OPPO Find N2 on its booth at Future Fest that provides the visitors with a chance to take a glimpse into the future.

OPPO has previously registered its commitment to the empowerment of a better future through INNO day smart initiatives. The event showcased OPPO's determination to enrich its four Smart Initiatives in smart entertainment, smart productivity, smart health, and smart learning to deliver more innovation for good and build an inclusive and more positive future for all.

A number of government officials and tech experts are expected to mark their presence at OPPO booth that will add to learning experience for the visitors. This initiative will provide a potential chance for youth to re-imagine a progressive tech future along with OPPO as the emerging home to future technology.

20-K Cup T20 Cricket: Golden Star Club thump Pindi Gymkhana

Spokesman Report

LAHORE : Brilliant bowling by Muhammad Naveed guided Golden Star Cricket Club to a thumping eight-wicket victory over Pindi Gymkhana in the 20-K Cup 2023 T20 Cricket Tournament here at the Model Town Greens ground on Saturday.

Pindi Gymkhana couldn't start their innings well and kept on losing wickets on regular interval. Only their middle order batters Asfand Mehran and Wasif Khan made their side's total respectable as they contributed with 32 and 31 runs respectively. While opener Aneeq Mush-taq was another batter, who scored 11 runs as no other Pindi Gym batter could cross the double figures.

Muhammad Naveed was main wrecker-in-chief of Pindi Gymkhana batting line-up as he took three scalps conceding 22 runs while his teammates



Asad Raza and Abrar Ahmad bagged two wickets each and Sadaqat and Ahmad Safi Abdullah took one wicket each.

Golden Star Cricket Club replied strongly and reached home safely in 11.2 overs for the loss of just two wickets. Their openers Azzam ul Haq and Huzaifa started well for their side and added 57 runs for the opening stand. Azzam (20) was the first batter from the winning side, who lost his wicket at a total of 20 runs while in the very next over, Huzaifa (21) was also sent packing by Zaid Butt at a total of 59-2.

After that Ali Raza (20) and Ammar Sajid (23) chased the target in 11.2 overs. For his brilliant bowling, Muhammad Naveed was adjudged as player of the match. In the only match of the day (Sunday - January 8, 2023), Ludhiana Club will play against Apollo Club at 11:00 am.



Pakistan Women cricket team under the Captaincy of Bismah Maroof has arrived in Brisbane (Australia) for three ODI matches and 3 T-20 matches series. Pakistan team will play the first ODI on 16 January, 2nd ODI on 18 January, at Brisbane while 3rd ODI will be played on 21st January, at Sydney. The 3 T- Twenty series first match will be played on 24th January at Sydney 2nd on 26 at Hobart while 3rd and last T-20 match will be played on 29th January at Canberra.

Nouman Khan moves into British Junior Open final

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's Nouman Khan battled back from two games down to outwit Egyptian boy Eyad Walid Youssef Mousa in the semifinal of Boys U-13 category of the British Junior Open Squash Championship in Birmingham, UK on Saturday.

According to information made available here by Pakistan Squash Federation, Nouman lost the first two games 7-11, 9-11 but fought back to clinch the next three games 11-5, 11-9, 11-9 and cruise into the final.

Indian Tennis star Sania Mirza to retire next month

Web Desk

KARACHI: Indian tennis star Sania Mirza has decided to retire after the conclusion of the Dubai Duty Free Tennis Championships next month.

Earlier, Sania had announced that she will bring the curtain down on her professional career after the conclusion of the 2022 season but chose to extend her career because of her elbow injury ahead of the US Open.

"I was going to stop right after the WTA Finals, because we were going to make the WTA Finals, but I tore my tendon in my elbow right before US Open so I had to pull out of everything," Sania told wtatennis.com.

"And honestly, the person that I am, I like to do things on my own terms. So I don't want to be forced out by injury. So I've been training."

"The plan is to try and retire in Dubai during the Dubai Duty Free Tennis Championships."

Meanwhile, the Indian Tennis superstar will also be participating in the Australian Open, scheduled this month alongside Kazakhstan's Anna Danilina in Women's Doubles.

However, in an interview with Curly Tales Middle East, Sania explained the reason why it is the right time for her to retire.

"I'm 36, and honestly my body is beaten, that is the main reason for it," said Sania.

"And I really don't have the capacity in my mind to emotionally push that much anymore. I turned pro in 2003. Priorities change, and now my priority is not to push my body to the limit every single day."



ICC announces warm-up fixtures for inaugural U19 Women's T20 WC

News Desk

DUBAI: The International Cricket Council (ICC) on Sunday unveiled the warm-up fixtures for all 16 teams participating in the inaugural edition of the U19 Women's T20 World Cup in South Africa.

According to the ICC, each participating team will compete in two warm-up matches on January 9 and 11 across four venues in Gauteng - St Stithians College, Steyn City School, Tuks Oval and Hammanskraal Oval.

Consequently, Pakistan will lock horns with Ireland (January 9) and New Zealand (January 11) ahead of the main tournament, scheduled to commence on January 14.

The inaugural U19 Women's T20 World Cup



will feature 41 matches as sixteen teams will be competing in the two-week event across four venues in South Africa.

The 16 teams have been divided into four groups with Pakistan being placed in Group B alongside England, Rwanda and Zimbabwe.

The green shirts will start their main round campaign against Rwanda on Janu-

ary 15 before facing England (January 17) and Zimbabwe (January 19) in their remaining group fixtures.

The top three teams from each group will then be divided into two Super 6 Groups then the top two teams out of which will book their place in the semi-finals.

The final of the inaugural mega event will be played on January 29.

Pakistan Squad: Aroob Shah (Captain) (Sindh), Aliza Khan (Sindh), Anosha Nasir (Sindh), Areesha Noor (Central Punjab), Eyma Fatima (Central Punjab), Haleema Azeem Dar (Central Punjab), Haniah Ahmer (Sindh), Laiba Nasir (Central Punjab), Mahnoor Aftab (Khyber Pakhtunkhwa), Quratulain Ahsen (Central Punjab), Rida Aslam (Central Punjab), Shawaal Zulfqar (Central Punjab), Warda Yousaf (Central Punjab), Zaib-un-Nisa (Khyber Pakhtunkhwa) and Zamina Tahir (Central Punjab)

Reserves: Aqsa Yousaf (Southern Punjab), Dina Razvi (Sindh), Maham Aneeq (Northern), Muskan Abid (Central Punjab) and Tahzeeb Shah (Khyber Pakhtunkhwa)

Babar Azam rues winless Home Season

New Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's all-format captain Babar Azam is dejected by the team's winless home season but refuses to blame players' injuries or unresponsive pitches for their lean run.

Pakistan twice returned from the brink of defeat to force a 0-0 stalemate in the two-test series against New Zealand, which followed a 3-0 whitewash at the hands of England last month.

They have now gone eight tests at home without a win, which put paid to their hopes of making the World Test Championship final, and Babar conceded this was not how he expected the season to unfold.

"The test season hasn't gone according to expectations," Babar told a news conference after Pakistan narrowly avoided a third successive home series defeat. "It's not an excuse but some of our players were unfit which disturbed our combination."

Their bowling unit particularly suffered. Pace spearhead Shaheen Afridi remains sidelined with a knee injury, while fellow quick Haris Rauf and Naseem Shah missed the bulk of the series against England with niggles.

The pitches used for the series against England and New Zealand also drew flak for being too batter-friendly and Babar said it did not help their cause either.

"Of course there's talk about the pitches, but conditions are different at every venue."

Pakistan, New Zealand to start training tomorrow for ODI series



Bureau Report

KARACHI: Both squads of Pakistan and New Zealand will start training tomorrow for the upcoming three-match ODI series, scheduled to commence on Monday.

According to the details, the teams will carry out robust training sessions at the National Bank Cricket Arena from 4 pm to 7 pm tomorrow.

Meanwhile, before the commencement of training, the captains of both teams - Babar Azam and Kane Williamson - will also unveil the trophy and hold the pre-series press conferences.

It is pertinent to mention that all three matches of the ODI series will take place here on January 9, 11 and 13 respectively.

Journey to Light

Cross Route 25 bikers member left for six Muslim countries including Makkah for Umrah by motorbike road trip of 60 days from TDCP, Lahore Sightseeing Bus Service terminal Qadafi stadium. Mukaram Tareen, CEO of CRC is leading the group and the man behind the entire adventure project. The group did see off by Mr. Jafar Ronas, DG, Iranian Counsel Lahore with best wishes and safe travel. TDCP GM ITHMs Tahir Mehmood Rana welcomed the honorable guest and CRC members on behalf of Secretary Tourism Punjab and MD TDCP, the Project Director, Lahore Sightseeing Bus, Ashfaq Ahmed Doger, Deputy Director Mian Nadeem Anwer, TDCP media manager Abid Shaukat, CEO of Explorers Den, Muhammad Jamil Raza and large number media was present in the event.



Cummins declares Australia's innings, leaves Khawaja stranded on 195

Web Desk

SYDNEY: Captain Pat Cummins declared Australia's first innings at 475 for four leaving opening batsman Usman Khawaja stranded on 195 on the fourth day of the third Sydney Test against South Africa on Saturday.

Play was not possible on the fourth morning due to light rain and a wet outfield.

Australia lead the series 2-0 after big wins in Brisbane and Melbourne and are pushing for a series whitewash to seal their place in the World Test Championship final in London in June.

Captain Cummins then bowled Australia into contention to pull off a remarkable victory with a fiery spell as he captured three for 29 in a hostile 14



overs to set up the Australians for a dramatic final day charge for victory and a series clean sweep against the hapless Proteas.

At the close on day four, South Africa were battling for survival at 149 for six in reply to Australia's 475-4 declared with Marco Jansen on 10 and Simon Harmer six.

The outgunned South

Africans have only passed 200 once so far in this series.

The Australians need 14 more wickets to pull off an astonishing victory and cannot be counted out after rocking the tourists in Saturday's two dominant sessions of the rain-marred Test.

Josh Hazlewood made the initial breakthrough, removing Dean Elgar for 15 contin-

uing the Proteas' skipper's wretched series of low scores.

Hazlewood, bowling a lively opening spell, got Elgar with a brutal short-pitched delivery which clipped his glove for a catch by wicket-keeper Alex Carey.

Nathan Lyon stunned Sarel Elwee who did not play a shot and was bowled top of off-stump for 18 leaving the tourists 37-2 in the 18th over.

Four balls later Cummins claimed his first victim with Heinrich Klaasen, caught off a lifter leg-side by Carey for two. Hazlewood broke through again after tea with an inswinger that kissed the edge of Temba Bavuma's bat for Carey to do the rest.

Bavuma clouted two sixes off Lyon in his 35 off 74 balls but was a big wicket for the Aussies to leave the visitors 85-4 in the 39th over.

Aspas strikes as Celta Vigo crush Elche to end losing streak in LaLiga

Web Desk

ELCHE: Veteran striker Iago Aspas' fifth-minute goal was enough to power Celta Vigo to run through the winless Elche and ended their eight-match losing streak in the ongoing La Liga 2022/23.

The rock-bottom Elche continued to struggle in the ongoing season of the Spanish league as they remain the only team without a win after 16 league matches.

Elche's defeat came following an unwanted start to the year 2023 as the side relegated from the Copa del Rey courtesy of a 1-0 loss at the hands of third-division club Ceuta.

Newly-appointed coach Pablo Machin also failed to turn the fortune in the bottom-ranked Elche's favour as he sustained his third defeat after taking the charge. His first match was a 2-0 loss at Atlético Madrid before the

end of the year. Meanwhile, Celta Vigo, which got the match-winner in just the fifth minute off Aspas, ended their eight-match losing streak, while their last triumph was in October against Real Betis. It also had been eliminated in the Copa del Rey midweek.

The triumph over Elche lifted Celta Vigo to 16th spot, three points clear of the relegation zone.

On the other hand, Cadiz also enjoyed a similar outcome in their match at Valencia as the side ended a three-match losing streak with a 1-0 triumph over the hosts and moved out of the relegation zone.

Cadiz, however, found their match-winner in the ninth minute when Ruben Alcaraz struck from just outside the box off Ruben Sobrino's astounding assist having carried the ball all the way through before firing a perfect pass.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Whereas, Mr. Abdul Rauf s/o Kh. Abdul Wahid allottee of plot No. 37-B, Block-A Area Development Scheme-II Gujar Khan have appointed General Power Attorneys to Kh. Abdul Qadus s/o Kh. Abdul Wahid vide registered deed No. 234/4 dated 11/06/2016 from Sub Registrar Gujar Khan.

Now General Power Attorney wishes to transfer his plot in the name of Mr. Waseem Akhtar s/o Akhtar Hussain.

If anyone have objection of above advertisement submit their objection within fifteen days of this advertisement otherwise objection will not be entertained.

Deputy Director
Punjab Housing & Town
Planning Agency
Sub Region Rawalpindi