

# Daily The Spokesman

RAWALPINDI



## Khawaja Asif hopes PM will take steps for a Zarb-e-Azb like operation

Following the suicide blast at a mosque in Peshawar's Police Lines, Defence Minister Khawaja Asif hoped that Prime Minister (PM) Shehbaz Sharif would take steps for a Zarb-e-Azb like operation against the 'rising terrorism' in the country.



## UN Chief slams deadly terrorist attack in Peshawar, voices solidarity with Pakistan

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres has strongly condemned Monday's suicide bombing at a mosque in Peshawar, saying it was "particularly abhorrent" that the attack occurred at a place of worship. "Freedom of religion or belief, including the ability to worship in peace and security, is a universal human right," his Spokesman Stephane Dujarric said in a statement. (Report on Page 8)

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## Remembrance of Martyred

HYDERABAD: Members of Hyderabad Business Forum lighting candles in remembrance of Martyred of Peshawar Mosque incident.



Photo: Online

## Peshawar Mosque blast: Death toll rises to 100; almost 169 injured

News Desk

PESHAWAR: The death toll in the Peshawar mosque blast has climbed to 100 after more bodies were retrieved from the wreckage by the rescue teams, ARY News reported on Tuesday, quoting the deputy commissioner.

Security officials said the explosion took place around 1:40pm on Monday as Zuhur prayers were being offered as a result of which the roof of the mosque caved in. The rescue operation is still underway at the mosque site to retrieve the victims.

Lady Reading Hospital (LRH) spokesperson Muhammad Asim has confirmed the number of casualties, saying that almost 100 people were martyred and 169 people

sustained injuries in the 'suicide blast'.

The LRH spokesperson said several bodies have been handed over to their heirs after identification. The outlawed Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) has claimed responsibility for the blast at a mosque in Peshawar's Police Lines.

Police and rescuers shifted the injured to the Lady Reading and other hospitals in the area. The caretaker government of KP has imposed emergency in Peshawar's hospitals.

The administration of the Lady Reading Hospital has appealed to the masses for blood donations to treat the injured. Meanwhile, law enforcement agencies immediately cordoned off the area and were collecting the evidence from the crime scene.

# COAS directs all commanders to continue focusing on anti-terror operations

Spokesman Report

RAWALPINDI: Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Syed Asim Munir on Tuesday directed all corps commanders to continue to focus on anti-terrorism operations in coordination with intelligence and law enforcement agencies (LEAs) with renewed resolve till the time sustainable peace is established.

According to the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR), the Army Chief presided over the 255th Corps Commanders' Conference held here at General Headquarters (GHQ).

The participants were briefed in detail about prevailing and emerging threats, the situation in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) and ongoing intelligence-based



operations being undertaken by Army and LEAs for breaking the nexus between terrorists and their support mechanism across the country. The forum paid rich tributes

to the martyrs of the Peshawar Police Line blast and vowed that perpetrators would be brought to exemplary justice.

On the occasion, the COAS emphasised that such immoral and cowardly acts could not shake the resolve of the nation but rather reinvigorate their determination to succeed in the ongoing war against terror with zero tolerance for any terrorist entity.

The forum taking notice of human rights violations and Indian design to alter the demographics of IIOJK reaffirmed the Army's commitment to Pakistan's principal support to the indigenous freedom struggle of brave Kashmiri people as per relevant UN resolutions and aspirations of the people of the Kashmir.

## PTI govt pardoned convicted terrorists: Rana Sanaullah



Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah has blamed the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) for 'rising terrorism', saying that the previous government had pardoned convicted terrorists of banned outfits.

Speaking on a motion in the National Assembly on a recent wave of terrorism in the country, the interior minister expressed the resolve to win the 'war on terrorism' at all costs.

Blaming Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) for rising terrorism, Rana Sanaullah said that the PTI's policy to pardon the convicted terrorists of banned outfits proved to be wrong.

"The policies implemented

in the last 4 years were the main factors of the rise of terrorism", he said, adding that the PTI allowed the terrorist to return to Pakistan.

Rana Sanaullah said terrorism was a collective issue, which can only be eliminated jointly. "The political leadership and the military leadership are determined to seek guidance from the parliament in order to defeat terrorism," he added.

Condemning the terrorist incident in Peshawar, the Minister said terrorism should not be bracketed with any community or ethnicity. He said every Pakistani is disturbed over the terrorist incidents, irrespective of where they happen.

## Chaudhry Shujaat to Remain PML-Q President: ECP

City Reporter

ISLAMABAD: The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) on Tuesday declared Chaudhry Shujaat Hussain as the president of the Pakistan Muslim League-Quaid (PML-Q).

The ECP announced its verdict on a petition filed by the former premier last year in July amid ongoing tussle with his cousin Pervaiz Elahi over party leadership.

A five-member bench of the ECP, headed by Chief Election Commissioner Sikandar Sultan Raja, announced the verdict.

In July last year, Pervaiz Elahi's group had decided to remove Shujaat and General Secretary Tariq Bashir Cheema from the party's top position. However, Ch Shujaat had filed an application with the ECP challenging the decision.



The PML-Q got divided into two groups over the issue of joining hands with the PTI and PML-N. Pervaiz Elahi and his son Moonis Elahi joined hands with Imran Khan while Chaudhry Shujaat, his son Ch Salik and former federal minister in the PTI government supported the PML-N.

## Asif Ali Zardari serves legal notice to Imran Khan over 'allegations'

Bureau Report

KARACHI: Pakistan People's Party co-chairman and former president Asif Ali Zardari on Monday sent a legal notice of Rs10 billion in damages to PTI chairman Imran Khan for leveling 'baseless allegations' of planning murder.

Recently, Imran Khan in his speech leveled allegations over Asif Ali Zardari for plotting his assassination.

According to the details, a legal notice was sent to former prime minister Imran Khan on the allegation of planning his [Imran] assassination.

In the legal notice, Asif Ali Zardari said that Imran Khan should apologize unconditionally within 14 days, or else he gets ready to face a defamation case of Rs10 billion.

The legal notice says that Imran Khan claimed Asif Zardari's links with terror-



ists, and Imran Khan's allegations affected Asif Zardari's reputation.

In the notice, it was also said that PPP has faced terrorism in every era, former prime minister Benazir Bhutto was also martyred in a terrorist attack.

The PTI chief had claimed that Zardari was behind a "plan C" to assassinate him. In a televised address, Imran claimed the PPP co-chairman has hired a terrorist outfit to have him killed after the previous attempt in Wazirabad on his life failed.

## ATC extends Imran's bail in section-144 case

City Reporter

ISLAMABAD: An Anti Terrorism Court (ATC) on Tuesday extended the interim bail of PTI's chief Imran Khan in a case pertaining to damaging public property during a protest and violation of section-144 in the federal capital.

ATC Judge Raja Jawad Abbas heard the case against former prime minister Imran Khan. Dr Baber Awan informed the court that Imran Khan couldn't appear before the court due to his injuries and prayed to the judge for granting him exemption from appearance.

The court extended the interim bail of Imran Khan till February 10 and adjourned the hearing of the case.

## Imran Khan to be indicted in ECP protest case on Feb 7

City Reporter

ISLAMABAD: District and sessions court on Tuesday decided to indict Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf chairman and former prime minister Imran Khan in a case filed against him after demonstrations were held following his disqualification by the ECP in the Toshakhana case.

As per details, district and sessions judge Zafar Iqbal resumed the hearing, in which Ali Bukhari advocate appeared on behalf of Imran Khan as his Babar Awan was busy in a high court hearing.

In today's hearing, Imran Khan's lawyer presented his medical certificates before the court and also gave a surety of Rs30,000 after being directed by the court.

The district and sessions judge decided to indict Imran Khan on February 7 in the Election Commission of Pakistan



The Spokesman photo

(ECP) protest case.

It is pertinent to mention here that several members of the local leadership of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) were booked in a case over alleged vandalism during the protests in Islamabad after ECP disqualified the former prime minister and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf chief in Toshakhana reference. The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) disqualified former prime minister and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf chairman Imran Khan in the Toshakhana reference under Article 63(1)(p).

## Accord signing ceremony

ISLAMABAD: Finance Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar addressing agreement signing ceremony of launching Pilot Project of Digitization/Dematerialization of NSCs through CDC, at Finance Division on Tuesday.



Photo: PID

## Fascist mindset trying to remove Ch Shujaat as PML-Q President defeated: Marriyum

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Information and Broadcasting Marriyum Aurangzeb said on Tuesday the fascist mindset that planned to remove Chaudhry Shujaat as the PML-Q President was defeated.

In a tweet, she congratulated PML-Q President Chaudhry Shujaat Hussain and said the order of the Election Commission of Pakistan was a message that the decisions would be made in the light of the Constitution and the law, not in darkness.

The fascism of burning, demolish-



ing, killing, picking up and throwing away was not imposed in the country now, she said.

Now everything will be done according to the constitution and law.

# President orders restoration of property to a woman citizen

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi has upheld the orders of the Federal Ombudsman for Protection against Harassment of Women (FOSPAH), and directed the restoration of a valuable property of a female citizen of Islamabad through the appointment of a local commissioner.

The order asked for its vacation from the illegal occupation, breaking open the locks of the premises, in case found locked, removal of any other hurdles or barriers in the way of taking possession of the property, and

giving it back to the rightful owner under the Enforcement of Women's Property Rights Act, 2020.

The president said "a local commissioner be appointed to restore or confer possession of the title of the property, a valuable house in Bahria Town, to Ms Aalya Fazal (the complainant) including measures to perfect such title and to submit a compliance report within seven days".

The local commissioner could avail the aid of local police if necessary, and the SHO of the local police station should extend full aid to the local



commissioner and be present with her at the relevant time along with the police contingent for the safety and security of the local commissioner, it was further added.

The president in his decision rejected the unqualified and baseless stance of the

accused person that he had been condemned unheard by FOSPAH, adding that the accused had not produced anything to establish the title of the disputed house in his favour, and thus, had no locus standi to bring the representation against the orders of FOSPAH, President Secretariat Press Wing said in a press release on Tuesday.

As per details, Aalya Fazal had filed a complaint before FOSPAH stating that her father Chaudhary Fazal Hussain has appointed her as his attorney to manage the affairs of his house in Bahria Town, Islamabad. This house was rent-

ed to different persons from 2007 to 2016 and afterwards, it remained vacant.

According to the complainant, when her brother visited the house in 2020 it was found that the house was illegally occupied by some unknown persons wherein the matter was reported to Bahria Town and the local police.

The police summoned the person residing in the house who gave the undertaking to vacate the house. Afterwards, a suit was filed in court that the house was purchased in 2008 based on a forged agreement dated 02.07.2008.

## UNSC members castigate Peshawar attack

News Desk

UNITED NATIONS: The UN Security Council members have condemned "in the strongest terms" the suicide terrorist attack against the Peshawar mosque, and called for those responsible for the "heinous and cowardly" action to be brought to justice.

A statement issued by the President of the 15-member Council for the month of January, Ambassador President Ishikane Kimihiro of Japan, expressed "deepest sympathy and condolences to the families of the victims and to the Government of Pakistan, and they wished a speedy and full recovery to those who were injured."

Noting that the attack was claimed by the Tehrik-e-Taliban (TTP), the statement said that "The members of the Security Council reaffirmed that terrorism in all its

forms and manifestations constitutes one of the most serious threats to international peace and security.

"The members of the Security Council underlined the need to hold perpetrators, organizers, financiers and sponsors of these reprehensible acts of terrorism accountable and bring them to justice," the statement said.

They urged all States, in accordance with their obligations under international law and relevant Security Council resolutions, to cooperate actively with the Government of Pakistan, as well as all other relevant authorities in this regard.

"The members of the Security Council reiterated that any acts of terrorism are criminal and unjustifiable, regardless of their motivation, wherever, whenever and by whomsoever committed," the statement further said.

## Commander Kenya Navy visits NHQ

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Commander Kenya Navy, Major General Jimson Longiro Mutai on Tuesday visited Naval Headquarters here and called on Chief of the Naval Staff, Admiral Muhammad Amjad Khan Niazi.

Upon arrival, the guest was received by Chief of the Naval Staff, whereas a smartly turned out contingent of Pakistan Navy presented the Guard of Honour. Thereafter, the dignitary laid floral wreath at the Shuhada's Monument and was introduced to the Principal Staff Officers, a Pakistan Navy news release said.

Later, Commander of the Kenya Navy called on Chief of the Naval Staff. During



the meeting, matters of mutual interest including bilateral collaborations and regional maritime security milieu were discussed.

The Naval Chief highlighted Pakistan Navy initiatives for ensuring maritime security and peace in the region through Regional Maritime Security Patrols. The visiting Admiral appreciated and acknowledged Pakistan Navy's efforts and

commitments in support of collaborative maritime security in the region. Later, Commander of Kenyan Navy was given detailed briefing on Pakistan Navy roles and operational capabilities.

It is expected that the on-going visit of Commander of the Kenyan Navy will further enhance bilateral collaboration between the two countries.

## Health Minister offers health facilities to injured of Peshawar mosque blast

Bureau Report

PESHAWAR: Federal Minister for Health Abdul Qadir Patel and Secretary Health Punjab Dr. Ahmed Javed Qazi on Tuesday in respective teleconversations with Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor Ghulam expressed deep sorrow over Peshawar's mosque blast and offered healthcare facilities for injured from Islamabad, Punjab, and Sindh, said an official communique issued here.

The federal minister and secretary health said that Islamabad, Sindh, and Punjab governments were ready to extend all kinds of medical facilities for the injured persons of the deadly blast.

They said that the federal and provincial governments share the grief of the bereaved families in this hour of distress.

## UN Chief slams deadly terrorist attack in Peshawar, voices solidarity with Pakistan

News Desk

UNITED NATIONS: UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres has strongly condemned Monday's suicide bombing at a mosque in Peshawar in which some 59 people were martyred and many more wounded, saying it was "particularly abhorrent" that the attack occurred at a place of worship.

"Freedom of religion or belief, including the ability to worship in peace and security, is a universal human right," his Spokesman Stephane Dujarric said in a statement he read out at the regular noon briefing at UN Headquarters in New York. "The Secretary-General extends his heartfelt condolences to the families of the victims and wishes a prompt recovery to those injured," the statement said.

It added, "The Secretary-General reiterates the solidarity of the United Nations with the Govern-



ment and people of Pakistan in their efforts to address terrorism and violent extremism."

Replying to a question from APP about the increasing number of attacks taking place across Pakistan for which the Tehrik-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP), using the Afghan soil, has claimed the responsibility, the spokesman said that "every government or every authority that has control over (its) territory has a responsibility towards the international community to make sure that their territory is not being used for terrorist activities."

## Pakistan ranks 140 on corruption perception index: report

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has failed to make any improvement on the Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI) in 2022 as it retained its rank, 140, among 180 countries in the world, ARY News reported on Tuesday, quoting a report of Transparency International.

According to details, the CPI ranks 180 countries and territories around the world by their perceived levels of public sector corruption, scoring on a scale of 0 (highly corrupt) to 100 (very clean).

Pakistan's score dropped to 27 from 28 last year while its rank remained unchanged. In 2021, the country slipped 16 places to 140 from 124 out of 180 countries.

In the report, Transparency International said that the country has continued its statistically significant downward trend, this year hitting its lowest score since 2012 at just 27 points amidst ongoing political turmoil.

"In 2018, PTI Chairman Imran Khan took the reins of the country promising to combat widespread corruption and promote reforms on the socio-economic fronts but no significant improvement was made," said the watchdog.

"After he was ousted in a no confidence vote this April, the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) disqualified him from running for office for another five years and filed a plea in session court for criminal proceedings over allegations he failed to declare gifts and profits he made from selling them during his tenure," it added.

The report stated that incumbent government must make sure that it "does not allow such political scandals to derail comprehensive anti-corruption efforts" and stressed that it was time for the country to take "concrete action with a holistic and effective anti-corruption plan that addresses illicit financial flows and introduces safeguards for civic space".

## 1100 MW Nuclear Power Plant K-3 being Inaugurated by Prime Minister of Pakistan Tomorrow

# Women face challenges all over the world is no exception: Shazia Marri

**Spokesman Report**

ISLAMABAD: Ms. Shazia Marri, Federal Minister for Poverty Alleviation and Social Safety (PA&SS) and Chairperson Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP) held a meeting with Mrs. Henny Fokel de Vries, Ambassador of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, Madam Minister apprised the Netherlands's Ambassador about the program's success. She said that women face challenges all over the world and Pakistan is no exception. It is our mission to help this marginalized and vulnerable segment of society. Economic independence is one of the most desired wish of any women. Benazir Income Support Program aims at forging financial resilience in women. She added that it is the reason that BISP has identified women as head of family and primary beneficiary of the program.



She appreciated the support of Netherlands during difficult times, especially during the recent flood. She said that Pakistan's people were grateful to the help extended to them by Netherlands during Geneva Conference. She hoped that two countries will further strengthen ties in paradigms of trade and economy.

She told her about the intended initiative of BISP wherein 364 Nashonuma centres would be opened in 119 districts across the country, where pregnant women registered with BISP would be provided facilities of nutrition-rich food supplements, quarterly medical checkups, cash assistance and health

guidance, the minister said. She further apprised that the outreach of the program would be further expanded in more districts as well.

She informed them that recently BISP formally included marginalized segment our society i.e. Transgender community into its program. Now they are eligible for Rs.

7000 quarterly cash assistance. She said that BISP, after complaints, has introduced a new method of cash disbursement through individual bank accounts.

Fasial Karim Kundi, SAPM/MOS on Poverty Alleviation and Social Safety said that Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP), was also present in the meeting who said that Benazir Income Support Programme is striving to provide assistance to all marginalized segments of our society be it women or Trans-genders.

Mr. Kundi informed the delegation that BISP's cash disbursement mechanism is digitized, transparent and constant efforts are being made to make it more user friendly and modern. He further informed that BISP is also initiating dynamic registry survey soon to assess the socio-economic status of households on real time basis.

## The funeral prayers of six more policemen & officers were performed



**Adam Khan Wazir**

PESHAWAR: Mass funeral prayers of 6 more police officers and policemen who were martyred in the mosque blast of Peshawar Police Line were performed today at the ground of Peshawar Police Line. A well-armed police force saluted the caskets of the police martyrs wrapped in the national flag.

Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Haji Ghulam Ali and IGP Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Muazzam Jah Ansari laid flowers on the coffins of police martyrs and shouldered the dead. Senior military officials, relatives of martyrs and people from different walks of life attended the funeral in large numbers.

The IGP expressed deep sympathy and condolence to the families of police martyrs and paid tribute to their police services. However, on the other hand, the number of martyrs of Peshawar tragedy increased to 100

Spokesman Muhammad Asim says that 7 of the injured are currently admitted to the ICU and so far 100 dead bodies have been brought to LRH most of the injured are out of danger.

Providing free medical facilities to all the injured. Spokesperson LRH.

## President Sultan meets U.N. representatives in New York: Discusses atrocities in Kashmir



**Bureau Report**

NEW YORK/MUZAFFARABAD : The issue of Kashmir is still on the charter of the United Nations. The Secretary General of the United Nations has repeatedly reiterated this and he is concerned about the violation of human rights in Occupied Kashmir. These views were expressed today by the United Nations Assistant Secretary for Political and Peace Affairs Mohamed Khaled Khiari and the United Nations Assistant Secretary for Human Rights Commission Ilze Brands Kehris in detailed meeting with President Azad Jammu and Kashmir Barrister Sultan Mahmood Chaudhry at the United Nations Headquarters in New York. President Azad Jammu and Kashmir Barrister Sultan Mahmood Chaudhry representing 15 million Kashmiri people in the United Nations said that if the Kashmir issue was not resolved, the credibility of the United Nations would also be affected.

He said, in order to resolve the Kashmir issue, the United Nations Secretary General António Guterres should speed up his efforts because India had started large-scale changes in Occupied Kashmir since August 5, 2019 including changing the demography of occupied Kashmir and paving the way for bringing a Hindu Chief Minister there. He also said that the international community should keep in mind that Pakistan and India are two nuclear powers of the third world and any small or big accident between the two countries could be a precursor to a major war that would affect the peace of the entire world.

On this occasion, President Azad Jammu and Kashmir Barrister Sultan Mahmood Chaudhry also gave a detailed briefing to the top officials of the United Nations on the issue of Kashmir and the latest situation in occupied Kashmir. President Sultan said that the Prime Minister of Pakistan offered talks to India, but India had not given any positive response because the Indian government was following the policy of Hindutva, while atrocities were being committed on Muslims and minorities living in India. He urged the United Nations to not remain silent and take its responsibility in initiating dialogue between the two countries (Pakistan and India) and in the same way, the international community should immediately stop the ongoing atrocities in occupied Kashmir.

## Protest

HYDERABAD: Workers of Sindh United Party and Grand Democratic Alliance shouting slogans during a sit-in protest against inflation, at Naseem Nagar Chowk Qasimabad.



Photo: Online

# Govt to provide two million jobs to youth under NYEP

**Spokesman Report**

ISLAMABAD: Special Assistant to Prime Minister (SAPM) on Youth Affairs, Shaza Fatima Khawaja has said that the present government will provide two million jobs to the country's youth through the National Youth Employment Policy (NYEP).

Addressing the opening ceremony of the Commonwealth Year of Youth, Shaza Fatima said that Pakistan has a huge youth bulge and about 150 million people of Pakistan are under 30 years of age which means that about 68 percent of our population consists of youth.

She said that youth were not only our future but our present and we believed that if the youth were empowered by providing opportunities, they could become a strong asset for the country. "Our aim is to attract youth towards education, business and positive activities," she added.

The government's priority domains for the uplift of youth are "Girls Learn



Girls Earn", "Blue Collar Jobs" and "Providing dignified jobs to the youth in the future", she added.

Shaza Fatima further told that under the Prime Minister's Youth Program, importance is being given to 4-Es which are education, employment, engagement and environment.

Shaza Fatima said that in 2013, a flagship youth program was launched directly under the leadership of Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif with objective

to empower the youth and utilize their capabilities for the development of the country.

She said that the Prime Minister's Youth Program has been designed after intensive consultation with youth and relevant stakeholders to make it more effective and productive.

The SAPM further informed that a National Youth Council had been organized consisting of dynamic youth who were playing a positive role for the welfare and development of the society.

She added that young men and women of all classes, different religious minorities and persons with disabilities have been given priority in all projects of the government.

She informed that Green Youth Moment has been initiated by the government in view of climate change disasters being faced by Pakistan.

Shaza Fatima expressed her gratitude to Secretary General for organizing this special event and asked for further mobilizing the initiatives for the youth of the country this year.

## Sardar Atiq expressed deep sorrow and regret over the suicide bombing in Peshawar

**Abdul Majeed Tahir**

MUZAFFARABAD : All Jammu and Kashmir Muslim Conference President and former Prime Minister of Azad Kashmir Sardar Atiq Ahmad Khan expressed deep sorrow and regret over the suicide bombing in Peshawar Mosque and said that terrorism is a global scourge. Pakistan is the target of anti-Islamic terrorists around the world.

However, such acts of terrorism cannot shake the determination of the nation, the entire Pakistani nation is determined against terrorism. Countering collective terrorism is only possible with mutual unity and solidarity. He said that those who were martyred and injured in the mosque their sacrifices will not go in vain.

# Islam completely cares whole humanity: Allama Tahir-ul-Hasan

**Mian Rashid Asghar**

FAISALABAD: The Central Deputy General Secretary of Pakistan Ulema Council and Member of Provincial Ittehad Inter-Muslim Committee, Government of Punjab, Allama Tahir-ul-Hasan, has emphasized the need to implement faith, unity and discipline to face the challenges facing the country. But no compromise can be made in this context.

Such dire situation in the country is dangerous to us all in all respect. The resulting crises can quickly lead us to the brink of further destruction.

Expressing regret, Allama Tahir said that the suicide attack in Peshawar mosque is unfortunate, cowardly

and for the future, such a comprehensive strategy should be made to save the people from such loss of precious lives and fear. He further said that on the other hand, instead of burdening the people with inflation, it is better that the politicians my might devote half of their privileges and savings to Pakistan. It is the most important political responsibility of the government of the time to give maximum relief to the people instead pushing them toward Collapse.

For the security and stability of Pakistan, a message of unity has to be given to all the religious and political forces, and the people who are in poverty should be made easier out of caste interests.



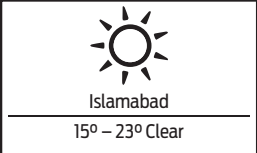
He said adding that they should establish unity in their ranks to fight against the anti-Islamic tyranny and without doubt, the hearts of the Muslim Ummah are saddened by the

desecration of the Holy Qur'an and the international organizations should take strict notice of it. He further said that the suicide blast in the mosque is reprehensible, the Ulemas, Pakistan army, security agencies and police have sacrificed a lot for the eradication of terrorism from Pakistan. Pakistan Army is the security institution where the Ulama and the people are on a page and we all have to play our part to end it. The blood of the martyred and injured in this mosque will not go in vain. It will lead to the end of the terrorists. At this time, it is necessary that the security and stability of Pakistan demands that, for this we all need to forget our differences and unite and commit to eradicate suicide

phenomenon. Both the perpetrators and perpetrators are hellish. Terrorists have neither religion nor humanity. They are worse than animals. Every Pakistani must play their role to eliminate these terrorists. Also keep in front the difficulties of people's hue & cry for two-day bread. Governments come to give relief to the people not to create unsustainability. He expected that it is hoped that the government will withdraw its decision considering the problems of the people. Return all privileges, terminate the protocol and deposit half of the earned wealth in the treasury of Pakistan so that the problems of the people get reduced.

He elaborated that the World forces should take strict notice of these beasts

and irresponsible tricks which are hurting the hearts of Muslims by desecrating the Holy Qur'an. Hatreds are born more in the entire Muslim Ummah in Denmark, Sweden, Holland because of the blasphemy of the Holy Qur'an and this is not freedom of expression, but more outrage will spread and the United Nations should give a strict warning to these countries and all countries should boycott the goods of these countries that spread evil. These countries will continue to raise their voices in every forum for the protection of the Holy Quran. Call a meeting of the OIC against it and let the whole world record the protest of the outrage of the Muslim Ummah, he said and added further.



**SERVICES**

**Namaz Timings**

Fajr ..... 5:40 am  
Zohr ..... 12:21 pm  
Asr ..... 3:59 pm  
Maghrib ..... 5:37 pm  
Isha ..... 7:03 pm

**EMERGENCY**

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

**Women Police Stations**

Islamabad ..... 9222596  
Rawalpindi ..... 9270601-20

**ENQUIRY**

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

**HOSPITALS**

CMH ..... 561111  
MH ..... 561116

# Indonesian Embassy stall attracts mass audience at Gandhara Civilization Festival 2023

**Spokesman Report**

RAWALPINDI: The Embassy of Indonesia in Islamabad is participating in a seven-day Gandhara Civilization Festival 2023, which commenced in Taxila and is ongoing in Rawalpindi starting from 29th January 2023 to 4th February 2023. The week-long festival is organized by the Rawalpindi Arts Council (RAC) which aims at promoting Pakistan as a custodian of the Gandhara Civilization to encourage religious tourism as a global symbol of peace and harmony.

The opening ceremony was attended by the Indonesian Ambassador Mr. Adam Tugio, senior government officials, the media community, International and nationally renowned artists, folk musicians, and people from all walks of life. More than 30 stalls are set up which includes sculpture, stone carving, gemstones, handmade paintings, and Gandhara art to highlight the heritage of the existence of Gandhara civilization in Pakistan.

Ambassador Tugio appreciated RAC's efforts in hosting the festival, which will boost Pakistan's soft image among Buddhist nations and promotes religious tourism in Pakistan. He also stated that



Pakistan has a rich heritage and history of the Gandhara civilization.

The Indonesian Embassy displayed a vibrant stall that attracted a mass audience. It also featured a 3D model of Borobudur temple which is the largest Buddhist temple in the world, as well as an exquisite collection of traditional

Indonesian batik and Pakistani Ajrak designs to highlight the cultural similarities between Indonesia and Pakistan.

Speaking on the occasion, Director General Punjab Arts Council, Mr. Muhammad Mehboob Alam said, "The main objective of the festival is to highlight the old civilization of the region and



to inform the young generation about the country's history of art and culture."

Commissioner Rawalpindi Division, Mr. Liaqat Ali Chhatta stated, "The word 'Gandhara' means 'land of fragrances.' We shall spread the fragrance of tolerance in our country through these gestures, which will stand out as a

message of peace and love for humanity.

The event brought together a display of Gandhara artifacts in Pakistan, a screening of the documentary on Buddhist heritage, book fair, traditional folk dances and musical performances, a Sufi night, and a display of Buddhist artifacts.

## Cultural, folk music night to be held on Wednesday

**City Reporter**

ISLAMABAD: Mausikaar Welfare Trust will hold a cultural and folk music night here on February 1 to entertain the fun lovers of twin cities of Rawalpindi and Islamabad.

The event will showcase cultural and sufi dances by a dance group that will present folk dances of all folk provinces and Gilgit Baltistan and conclude on Dhamaal, instrumental performances including Rubab and Flute will also represent all provinces of Pakistan.

Students from Quaid e Azam University will present folk culture of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. "The event is an attempt to engage young generation in healthy activities and give boost to their talent through a platform to bring positivity in them," said the organizers while talking to APP.

Mausikaar Welfare Trust is a Music Organisation for the preservation of traditional music and welfare of the artists of Pakistan.



Mausikaar Welfare Trust was established in 2007 for the preservation and promotion of traditional music of Pakistan and welfare of the Artists. Mausikaar organizes concerts with well-known artists as well as relatively unknown artists to promote them.

Musikaar Welfare Trust includes helping solve problems of the artists and bringing them to the attention of the media.

## Meeting

ISLAMABAD: Ms. Inger Andersen, Executive director of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) calls on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday.



Photo: PID

## Pakistan Pavilion won 'Best New Exhibitor'

**Spokesman Report**

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan pavilion won the "Best New Exhibitor Award" at New York Travel & Adventure Show 2023. The two-day event was held at Jacob K. Javits Convention Center New York on January 28-29, 2023. CEO of New York Travel & Adventure Show presented the award to Aftab ur Rehman Rana- Managing Director Pakistan Tourism Development Corporation (PTDC).

Speaking at the occasion,



Managing Director PTDC- Aftab ur Rehman Rana stated that participation of Pakistan in Travel and Adventure Show

throughout two days of the show.

Awn Chaudhry- Advisor to Prime Minister on Tourism & Sports and Managing Director - PTDC congratulated all the members of Pakistan's delegation including the provincial tourism departments and private sector tour operators for their dedication and commitment. They also highly appreciated the support of team of PTDC, Trade Development Authority of Pakistan (TDAP) and Pakistan Consulate General at New York to make all this

at New York has been highly impactful in terms of response from the public and engagement of all the team members

## Canadian HC concludes visits to winter sports festivals in Chitral, GB



**Correspondent**

ISLAMABAD: The Canadian High Commissioner in Pakistan, Leslie Scanlon, along with ice-hockey enthusiasts from the Canadian High Commission, participated in five winter festivals organised by rural mountainous communities in Chitral and Gilgit-Baltistan in January 2023.

The High Commissioner's daughter, who is an ice-hockey coach, also participated in the sports festivals, said a press release issued by the Canadian High Commission in Islamabad on Tuesday.

In her remarks, Canadian High Commissioner stated that the broader purpose of the winter sports festivals was the "economic and physical well-being of the communities of Gilgit-Baltistan," as harsh winters halt the physical and economic activities in these regions. Therefore, AKRSP, with its partners, provides an opportunity to activate physical and economic activities, she added.

Canadian HC concludes visits to winter sports festivals in Chitral, GB  
The High Commissioner Leslie Scanlon and her team participated in Climate Walk with the local youth, like the Booni Environment Academy, to shed light on the devastating impacts of climate change and biodiversity loss in the region, and to discuss solutions for embedding climate action in recovery actions to build back better - to create economies and communities that are more sustainable, resilient, and equitable.

High Commissioner Leslie Scanlon explaining her country's policy on women said, "Canada has a Feminist International Assistance Policy, which underscores our belief that by including women and girls in everything from politics to the economy, and in sports, only then will communities thrive both in Canada and around the world. We all have a role to play in breaking down barriers and ensuring that women, girls, and the differently abled have every opportunity to succeed in life.

Watching the girls' hockey games and being able to play with all these amazing female athletes has been a highlight for us. We applaud these communities' efforts to include everyone."

The High Commissioner and her team travelled for 16 days to visit communities, where they coached youth on ice-hockey skills, attended a variety of festival events, and engaged with local leaders. The programme brought together 40 male and female ice hockey teams and provided opportunities to more than 100 rural women entrepreneurs to display their products at the Women Business Expos held on the sidelines of Winter Sports Festivals.

# Maroof Int'l hospital Cervical Cancer Awareness Campaign concludes

**City Reporter**

ISLAMABAD: January is observed as Cervical Cancer Awareness Month globally. Unfortunately, very few young females in Pakistan know about how this disease occurs, spreads and the protection measures, including an available vaccine. Hence, Maroof Int'l Hospital had been running Cervical Cancer Awareness Campaign led by Prof. DR. Nabia Tariq Head of Gynae & OBS Dept Maroof Int'l Hospital & DR. Gulafshana Hafeez Khan Consultant Maroof Int'l Hospital & Consultant for Ministry of Health, devising National Strategy on Cervical Cancer. They also presented awareness lectures on TV channels, at educational institutions, and a range of organizations, with an aim to educate women to care for themselves and empower them in their health care decisions, as

part of its community service.

Dr. Shazia Aslam Soomro Parliamentary Secretary Ministry of Health applauded the awareness campaigns set up by Maroof Int'l Hospital throughout the month of January and appreciated that the spotlight has been put on a lesser known and rarely talked about disease. She went on to say that the government has its own limitations regarding resources however with such collaborations with the private sectors we can achieve great milestones. She assured that the government is there to provide all available support and requested the organizers to keep playing their part in the development of medical treatments and availability to the masses.

Haroon Naseer the CEO of Maroof Int'l Hospital emphasized that private & public sector joint efforts require to take all stakeholders on board, such

as Ministry of Health, WHO, UNICEF, and private sector hospitals like Maroof Int'l Hospital, Shifa and Shoukat Khanum among other. He added on that in order to provide health care facilities to the marginalized communities, Maroof Int'l Hospital is running a 100 bedded free hospital in Bewal village. It also opened Maroof Urgent Care Center in Top City Islamabad to serve the locals on subsidized rates. Maroof Int'l Hospital has always been at the forefront of helping people at the time of calamities like floods and COVID-19.

Cervical cancer is the 6th most common cancer in women in the Eastern Mediterranean Region. In 2020, an estimated 89 800 women were diagnosed with cervical cancer in the Region and more than 47 500 women died from the disease. When diagnosed, cervical cancer is one

of the most successfully treatable forms of cancer, as long as it is detected early and managed effectively. Cancers diagnosed in late stages can also be controlled with appropriate treatment and palliative care. With a comprehensive approach to prevent, screen and treat, we can end cervical cancer as a public health problem within a few generations said Dr. Nabia Tariq Head of Gynae & OBS Department of Maroof Int'l Hospital.

During her presentation Dr. Gulafshana Hafeez emphasized Get informed. Find out the facts about cervical cancer and the human papilloma virus (HPV) that causes it. Help educate other women in your life too. Get screened. Cervical cancer screening typically starts at age 30 and is repeated periodically. Get vaccinated. The HPV vaccine is given in 2 doses that should begin when a girl is between 9



and 14 years old.

Dr. Sabina Imran Durraani DG health appreciated the efforts of Maroof Int'l's Hospital's Management in combating this curable disease. However, she added that a lot more still needs to be done which will take the combined efforts of the public and private sectors. She said that the initiative taken by Maroof and its medical team to

educate the masses is notable and urged the doctors to share current stats and recommend course of action so that a way forward may be forged in collaboration with all stakeholders.

Dr Samia Rizwan, Health Specialist Maternal Newborn and Child Health at UNICEF country office Islamabad highlighted the importance of strengthening community service

es under the umbrella of Universal Health Coverage initiative being rolled out by government of Pakistan, training female health care providers and community health workers especially in rural areas, public private partnerships and enhanced quality of services to achieve improved results. She also emphasized upon the need to engage men in community so they can play their role to.

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# Political parties anything but democratic

**Mahmood Idrees**

**‘P**ractice what you preach’ is a basic principle that underpins the drive for positive change anyone wishes to bring in society. But the efforts bear no fruit when the ‘preacher’ is akin to whitened sepulcher.

Come to think of it, all leading political parties in Pakistan call for strengthening democracy and often recount the ‘sacrifices’ they rendered for the purpose but they hardly believe in any democratic principle. The PML-N, the PTI, the PPP, the PML-Q and the ANP rule country’s political landscape and clamour for rule of law and the proverbial principled politics but none of them is generous enough to allow anyone from outside to assume a key position.

Back in the day, the late Zulfikar Ali Bhutto established the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) with a promise of a curious mix of Islam, democracy and socialism but to date, no one outside his family has been promoted to the top post. Currently, the PPP is being steered by Z.A. Bhutto’s grandson Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari who succeeded his mother following

her assassination. His rise overshadowed veteran politicians such as Aitzaz Ahsan, Raza Rabbani, Khurshid Shah, Sherry Rehman and Naveed Qamar amid silent opposition.

Recently, Maryam Nawaz, the daughter of three-time prime minister Nawaz Sharif, was found fittest to take the mantle of reorganising the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) and appointed the third most powerful office-bearer in the party. Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, who heads the PML-N, issued a notification naming the 49-year-old niece as “chief organiser and senior vice president” of the party in a quick rise since she actively entered the political fray before the 2013 general election.

The development is not shocking for the political pundits who had predicted her as “future leader of the PML-N” when she rolled up her sleeves after her father was disqualified in July 2017 by the Supreme Court for being “dishonest”. At that time, the idea of inheriting office by Maryam triggered opposition from senior party leaders. Chaudhry Nisar Ali Khan, who was the interior minister then, voiced concern at ‘dynastic politics’. He is on record as having said: “Kids are kids and kids are apolitical. Maryam is a daughter,

not political leader.”

For this, the party ignored senior leaders such as Khwaja Asif, Tanvir Hussain, Shahid Khaqan Abbasi, Ahsan Iqbal, Sardar Ayaz Sadiq, Khwaja Saad Rafiq and Raja Zafarul Haq who could have the right stuff to lead the PML-N. All these seasoned politicians have now been placed under Maryam in the new hierarchy.

Her elevation has also reportedly led to rumbling discontent within the party as some leaders are said to have voiced concern, albeit in a covert way.

A leader, who wished he not be named, commented that the appointment would further strengthen “political dynasty” of the Sharif family. He complained that hardly any senior leader outside the House of Sharifs was consulted on her promotion.

Earlier, Hamza Shehbaz, the elder son of PM Shehbaz, was picked for the post of the chief minister of the province last year – a decision which riled many. Old-timers such as Khwaja Saad Rafique and Malik Ahmed Awan were ignored.

Elections make a fundamental contribution to democratic set-up at both levels – party and country – and erase impression of ‘family party’. But the PML-N appears

non-serious about shedding the impression as it is attempting to evade the intra-party polls despite warnings by the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP).

Imran Khan portrays himself as a big opponent of dynastic politics but a close-up view uncovers the worrying side of the picture. He often talks about Riyasat-i-Madinah and quotes principles of Western democracy but never made serious attempts to introduce democracy within his party as he has been occupying the top position right from the word go. Now he is rumoured to be made party’s patron-in-chief.

In a recent hearing of the PML-N’s intra-party election case, the chief election commissioner remarked most party elections were a “joke” in Pakistan. The comment also applies to the PTI which shied away from genuine elections. It is a fact that the party does not have Imran Khan’s sons or other close family members on key positions but his struggle will not bear fruit if he does not aspire to grassroots democracy within the party.

Attempts are being made to introduce ‘dynastic politics’ in his party and Mr Khan seemingly is giving tranquil gaze to them. Last year, PTI Vice Chairman Shah Mahmood Qureshi found no one

else but his daughter Mehr Bano Qureshi “most suitable” candidate for by-election when the NA-157 seat was vacated by his son Zain Qureshi.

But it did not sit well with a faction of the PTI, which went ballistic as it held a protest demonstration against it, alleging that Qureshi was promoting dynastic politics in the party. Amid all this episode, Imran Khan did not come forward to address the concerns. Interestingly, the “better candidate” could not retain the family seat in the by-election.

The case of relatively small parties is no different. Let’s take the instance of the Awami National Party (ANP) established by Abdul Wali Khan and now it is being steered by his son Asfandyar Wali Khan. Asfandyar’s son Aimal Wali Khan is the provincial president of the ANP and he is expected to hold central command of the party in the long run.

The Chaudhrys of Gujrat are considered a political force to reckon with and top offices are held within the family.

Before the hushed discontent over the “undemocratic” elevations proves a lull before storm, a strong introspection is needed by the political parties who claim to be champions of democracy in Pakistan.

## World ‘dangerously unprepared’ for next crisis

All countries remain “dangerously unprepared” for the next pandemic, the Red Cross warned on Monday, saying future health crises could also collide with increasingly likely climate-related disasters.

Despite three “brutal” years of the Covid-19 pandemic, strong preparedness systems are “severely lacking”, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) said.

The world’s largest humanitarian network said building trust, equity and local action networks were vital to get ready for the next crisis.

“All countries remain dangerously unprepared for future outbreaks,” the IFRC said, concluding that governments were no more ready now than in 2019.

It said extreme weather events were growing more frequent and intense, “and our ability to merely respond to them is limited”.

The IFRC issued two reports making recommendations on mitigating future tragedies on the scale of Covid-19, on the third anniversary of the World Health Organization declaring the virus an international public health emergency.

“The Covid-19 pandemic should be a wake-up call for the global community to prepare now for the next health crisis,” said IFRC secretary general Jagan Chapagain.

“The next pandemic could be just around the corner; if the experience of Covid-19 won’t quicken our steps toward preparedness, what will?”

The report said major hazards harm those who are already vulnerable the most, and leaving the poorest exposed was “self-defeating”, as a disease can return in a more dangerous form.

### Breakdown of trust

The IFRC said if people trusted safety messages, they would be willing to comply with public health measures and accept vaccination. But the organisation said crisis responders “cannot wait until the next time to build trust”, urging consistent cultivation over time.

The IFRC said if trust was fragile, public health became political and individualised — something which impaired the Covid response.

It also said the coronavirus pandemic had thrived on and exacerbated inequalities, with poor sanitation, overcrowding, lack of access to health and social services, and malnutrition creating conditions for diseases to thrive in.

“The world must address inequitable health and socio-economic vulnerabilities far in advance of the next crisis,” it recommended.

The organisation also said local communities should be leveraged to perform life-saving work, as that is where pandemics begin and end.

The IFRC called for the development of pandemic response products that are cheaper, and easier to store and administer.

By 2025, it said countries should increase domestic health finance by one percent of gross domestic product, and global health finance by at least \$15 billion per year.

The IFRC said its network had reached more than 1.1 billion people over the past three years to help keep them safe during the Covid pandemic.



## Will Europe’s ban on Russian diesel hike global fuel prices?

**Spokesman Research**

**E**urope is taking another big step toward cutting its energy ties with Russia, banning imports of diesel fuel and other products made from crude oil in Russian refineries.

The European Union ban takes effect Feb. 5 following its embargo on coal and most oil from Russia. The 27-nation bloc is trying to sever its last uses of Russian energy and stop feeding the Kremlin’s war chest as the anniversary of the invasion of Ukraine nears.

The newest ban has risks: Diesel prices have already jumped since the war started on Feb. 24, and they could rise again for the fuel that is key to the global economy.

“We’re leaving money in the road to provide our services,” said Hans-Dieter Sedelmeier of the family-run German bus and travel company Rast Reisen.

Most things people buy or eat are transported at some point by trucks, which mostly run on diesel. It also powers farm equipment, city buses and industrial equipment. The higher cost of diesel is built into the price of almost everything, helping push up inflation that has made life harder for people worldwide.

Here are key facts about the upcoming European embargo:

That depends. Diesel, like crude oil, is sold globally, and Europe could look for new sources, such as the U.S., India or countries in the Middle East. If that goes smoothly, the impact on prices might be temporary and modest.

Europe has already cut Russian diesel

imports almost in half, from 50% of total imports before the war to 27%. U.S. suppliers have stepped up shipments to record levels, from 34,000 barrels a day at the start of 2022 to 237,000 barrels per day so far in January, according to S&P Global.

The EU’s top energy official, Kadri Simson, says markets have had time to adjust after the ban was announced in June. Europeans also appear to have stocked up on Russian diesel before the deadline, with imports rising last month.

There is a complicating factor: The Group of Seven major democracies are talking about imposing a price cap on Russian diesel heading to other countries, just as they did on Russian crude. As with oil, the idea is to keep Russian diesel flowing to world markets but reduce Moscow’s revenue.

If the cap works as advertised, global diesel flows should reshuffle, with Europe finding new suppliers and Russian diesel finding new customers, without a major loss of supply.

But it’s hard to say how the cap will work without knowing where the price will be set and whether Russia will retaliate by withholding shipments.

“When Russian exports are constrained, for whatever reason, that would of course cause some trouble in this whole reshuffle process,” said Hedi Grati, head of fuels and refining research for Europe at S&P Global Commodity Insights. “Europe would be competing with other big importers, and that would cause upward pressure on pricing.”

If the cap doesn’t block large amounts of Russian diesel, there might be “a short-lived price spike” as the market adjusts. For one, tankers would have a longer journey to

Europe from the U.S., Middle East or India than from Russia’s Baltic Sea ports, stressing shipping capacity.

But massive new refining capacity is launching in Kuwait and Saudi Arabia later this year and in Oman in 2024. That “could further alleviate any pressure points from this divorce from Russia,” Grati said.

The hope is to reproduce the effect of the oil price cap, which barred Western companies that largely control shipping services from handling Russian crude priced above \$60 a barrel.

Russia says it won’t sell oil to countries observing the price ceiling, but the cap and falling demand from a slowing global economy has meant customers in China, India and elsewhere can buy Russian oil at steep discounts, cutting into the Kremlin’s revenue.

Boosted by more expensive crude, diesel prices rose to over \$1,000 a ton last week from \$800 a ton in early December. Diesel costs more than \$40 per barrel above the crude used to make it.

One reason for the price hike was a late December storm in the U.S. that disrupted refineries, said Barbara Lambrecht, an analyst at Commerzbank.

Fuel prices have been a major factor behind painful inflation in Europe that has robbed consumers of purchasing power and slowed the economy.

Diesel prices at the pump have swung from 1.66 euros per liter (\$6.43 a gallon) to 2.14 euros per liter (\$8.29 a gallon) in the course of a year.

“That is a gigantic increase,” said Christopher Schuldes, the third generation of his family to run German trucking company Schuldes Spedition.

## Statement of Permanent Representative of Turkmenistan to the UN-I

**T**he Ambassador Aksoltan Ataeva, Permanent Representative of Turkmenistan to the United Nations at the open debate of the United Nations Security Council on Peace building and Sustaining Peace “Investment in people to enhance resilience against complex challenges” (26 January 2023) . The Ambassador said “I have the honour to speak on behalf of the five countries of Central Asia, namely Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan and my own country Turkmenistan. At the outset, let me express our gratitude to the Permanent Mission of Japan for organizing this open debates.

Our main tasks and obligations, as the United Nations Member States while implementing the fundamental principles of the UN Charter in practice, depend mostly on our collective efforts to build and sustain peace with a view to ‘leaving no one behind.’

However, this process needs agreed political mechanisms and a legal basis at the regional and global levels to proceed with further activities on the ground. I have the honour to inform you that with the support of all the United Nations Member States, the Zone of peace, trust and cooperation of Central Asia was declared by General Assembly resolution 76/299 on 28 July, 2022.

It is the point from where we continue to spread our efforts to build and sustain peace within and beyond our region implementing the decisions taken during the Consultative Meetings of the Heads of State of Central Asia, in particular last meeting in July 2022 in Cholpon-Ata city of Kyrgyzstan.

Countries of Central Asia put forward a number of global initiatives contributing to lasting peace and stability throughout the world. Taking this opportunity let me mention some of them.

It was seventeen years ago that our five countries established a Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone in Central Asia, which was a significant step to strengthen the nuclear non-proliferation regime. The last UN GA resolution on this subject was adopted on 7 December 2022, on behalf of Central Asia.

United Nations General Assembly unanimously supported the initiative of proclaiming 5th of March as the International Day for Disarmament and Non-Proliferation Awareness. We believe that this initiative will contribute to the strengthening of international peace and security and will increase the prospect that future generations will live in a world without nuclear weapons.

The High-Level Conference held in October 2022 in Tajikistan continued the Dushanbe Process on Combating Terrorism and its Financing, launched in May 2018.

Moreover, the initiative to establish in Almaty UN Regional Centre for SDGs for Central Asia and Afghanistan is a timely and relevant proposal, supported by five countries of the region, that would contribute to enhancing coordination activities in strengthening peace and sustainability.

In accordance with the United Nations General Assembly resolutions, we launched and completed the global campaign in the context of the International Year of Peace and Trust in 2021, and started this year coordinating activities in the context of the International Year of Dialogue as a Guarantee of Peace.

We can, therefore, well use this impetus for accelerating our common regional action for peace building with a view to reinforce and accelerate the initiative of the United Nations Secretary-General to form an ambitious New Agenda for Peace.

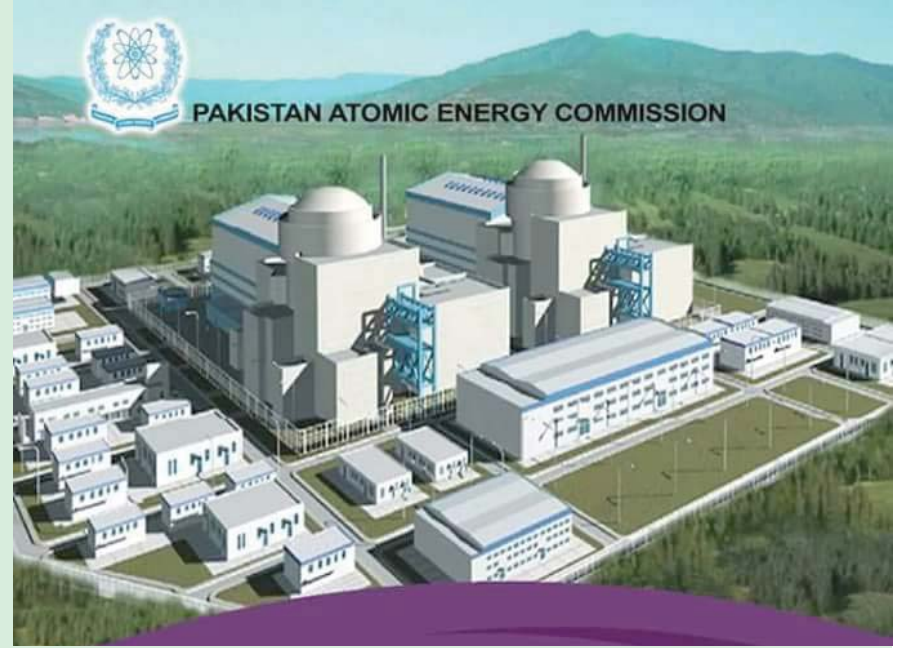
*To be concluded*

# Nuclear Power: A Viable Option For Electricity Generation



Climate-friendly, Reliable & Cost-effective

## PAEC pours another 1100 MWs in national grid



Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission (PAEC) is all set to gift the nation with yet another 1100 megawatts (MWs) of clean, reliable and cost-effective electricity by inaugurating the much-awaited Karachi Nuclear Power Plant Unit-3 (K-3) today. Prime Minister of Pakistan Mian Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif will be the chief guest on this occasion.

PAEC Chairman Dr. Raja Ali Raza Anwar has congratulated Member Power PAEC and his team of diligent scientists, engineers and technicians for taking this giant leap to revolutionize the energy sector of the country.

K-3 is the second Generation-III nuclear power plant (NPP) in Pakistan with generation capacity of 1100 MWs and its addition to the national grid will surely help reduce load shedding especially during summers.

Inauguration of K-3 is a memorable moment for Pakistan and its civil nuclear power program. It is the result of collaborated and continuous efforts of PAEC and China National Nuclear Corporation (CNNC), which culminated in a successful nuclear power program for Pakistan. The history of Pakistan's civil nuclear power program goes back to 1965 when construction of the first Nuclear Power Plant namely KANUPP of 137 MW capacity commenced in Karachi.

Since then, PAEC has constructed four

Nuclear Power Plants at Chashma with the assistance of China. These plants have total generation capacity of 1330 MW. The first plant of Generation-III technology, Karachi Nuclear Power Plant Unit-2 (K-2) went into commercial operation on 21st May, 2021. Both K-2 and K-3 are based on evolutionary design with improvements based on rich experience and extensive Tests and Analyses satisfying National and International Safety Codes, Standards and Practices.

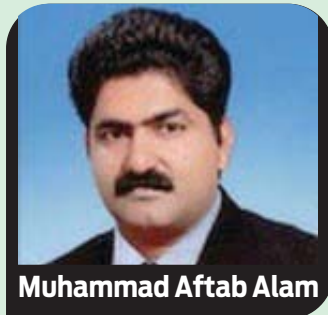
It is to mention here that the groundbreaking of K-3 was performed on November 26, 2013 by the then Prime Minister of Pakistan, Mian Muhammad Nawaz Sharif. With the addition of this unit, Karachi Nuclear Power Generating Station (KNPGS) alone has started providing 2200 MW of electricity to the national grid and as a whole the nuclear power generation capacity of Pakistan has reached about 3600 MW. In addition to usual project exigencies, COVID-19 pandemic was an unforeseen challenge which was tackled by the brave workforce of PAEC in such a manner that delay in the project's completion was insignificant.

PAEC is making a steady progress to meet the target set by the government of producing

8,800 MWs of nuclear power by 2030 and 40,000 MWs by the year 2050 for the country. Pakistan's nuclear power plants, including K-2 and K-3, are under International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) safeguards.

As far as efficiency of the PAEC operated NPPs is concerned, Pakistan's Chashma Nuclear Power Plant Unit-2 made a national record in the country's history in 2020 by running for a year continuously, becoming the second electricity generation plant of the country to achieve this milestone. Previously, Chashma Nuclear Power Plant Unit-4, had made the record of running for continuous 365 days, on July 1, 2020. These records of efficient and safe operations speak volumes of the acumen and hard work of PAEC's teams of technicians, scientists and engineers. Currently, Chashma Power Plants (C-1 to C-4) are producing electricity at an average tariff of Rs. 11.16/kWh, while operating at above 95% of Capacity Factor. Whereas the total energy production from Nuclear Power Plants in Pakistan had reached 125,147 GWh till March 2022.

PAEC gives highest priority to the Safety and Security of its nuclear installations and that is why it has adopted "Safety First" as a slogan for



Muhammad Aftab Alam

the nuclear power plants. PAEC is cognizant of the fact that a country requires affordable and reliable energy to prosper. Pakistan's Nuclear Power Program is an important component of our quest for reliable, cost-effective and clean energy with zero carbon emission. Nuclear Power Program can also contribute significantly in mitigating effects of the climate change.

Furthermore, PAEC power plants also play an important role in the uplift of surrounding areas by improving infrastructure, creating jobs, imparting education and providing modern health facilities. Nearly 75% employees working in Chashma are locals. Similarly, K-2/K-3 projects have given employment to over 2,000 skilled local workers.

The successful coming online of K-3 would not be possible without cooperation from brotherly China especially its China Atomic Energy Authority (CAEA), China National Nuclear Corporation (CNNC), China National Nuclear Corporation Overseas Ltd. (CNOS), China Nuclear Energy Industry Corporation (CNEIC), and Export-Import (EXIM) Bank of China. Pakistan Nuclear Regulatory Authority (PNRA) also deserves appreciation for their efforts in ensuring the nuclear safety of these

projects. On national level, kind patronage from Government of Pakistan, especially Strategic Plans Division (SPD), Planning Commission, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Power and all relevant government departments from Sindh deserves a standing ovation.

We have to realize that nuclear Power is the future of Pakistan for being second most cost-effective base-load energy source after hydel power. It is environmentally less harmful because of nearly zero emission levels and most importantly, the nuclear fuel is strategically viable for long-term storage as fuel for over one-year operation of nuclear power plants can be stored at the site, unlike furnace oil. It is therefore a reliable option in terms of securing energy security for a country. It is high time we embrace nuclear power with open arms because in Pakistan's energy mix, nuclear option deserves a far better and prominent place than it currently occupies. PAEC management also deserves nation's tribute for its untiring efforts to bring about socio-economic development of the country and successfully pursuing Strategic Development Goals (SDGs) in line with IAEA and the United Nations.

## Nation's largest nuclear power generating station kicks off

*Karachi nuclear power generation station KNPGS showing K2 & K3 plants*

Saima Durrani

Pakistan's existing energy mix is highly dependent on expensive fuels, like oil and gas and a disproportionate reliance on the imported fuels is exerting a strain on the balance of payments besides making the energy mix unfavourable.

In this scenario who would not be relieved in Pakistan to know that on the quiet shore of Arabian sea, not far from paradise point in the mega city of Karachi, surely but steadily a momentous project has been completed successfully i.e Pakistan's largest nuclear power producing entity, the Karachi Nuclear Power Generating Station KNPGS. With the inauguration of the Karachi nuclear power plant unit-3 K3 to the national grid and its twin K2 already operational on this station, together will add 2200 Megawatts of electricity for national consumption.

Energy, being lifeline of socio-economic development of a country, occupies a dominant position as ensuring energy security is one of the important prerequisites of national development along with water and food supply. Pakistan is facing a formidable challenge of energy shortages with the demand outweighing its supply. The energy shortage has adversely affected all sectors of the economy resulting in an annual loss of up to three per cent of the GDP. Addition of 22,00 megawatts to nation's energy mix would be a welcome and much needed step indeed.

Nuclear energy is clean and environmental friendly. Nuclear power is not only low-carbon; it is also reliable when compared to other low-carbon options. Compared with wind power, solar power and other energy sources, nuclear power plants operate for longer stretches for at least 12 to 18 months after a single refueling and have a relatively small footprint, making it an important part of base



load energy for a country.

It is estimated that K-2 & K-3 will generate about 18 billion kWh of electricity annually and meet the annual electricity demand of more than 8 million households in Pakistan which is equivalent to reducing coal use by 3.12 million tonnes annually and avoiding the emission of 8.16 million tonnes of carbon dioxide every year. Construction of K2 and 3 has also driven the development of Pakistan's economy and related industries. The local supply of equipment in Pakistan has increased significantly. During the peak period of the project construction, it has directly provided more

than 10,000 jobs for Pakistan, and indirectly created more than 40,000 jobs through the industrial chain.

Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission signed the contract for these two 1100 Megawatt each Generation-III nuclear power plants with China on 18th February, 2013.

The cooperation on nuclear technology between Pakistan and China spans more than three decades. China is a big player in nuclear industry and is currently building more new nuclear reactors than any other country with plans for as many as 150 by 2030. Long before this, in this decade, China will overtake the US as the oper-

ator of world's largest nuclear energy systems. The nuclear energy production cooperation between Pakistan and China hence seems not only the best possible and timely arrangement for country's energy needs but speaks volumes about the sagacity of Commission's early decision makers for their far sightedness.

These plants are based on the Generation-III technology also known as ACP-1000 or Hualong-1. This new design has incorporated the feedback from Fukushima incident. These plants are equipped with the double-wall containment design to bear the pressure from inside and can with-

stand the crash from large commercial aircraft from the outside. The plant life of K-2/K-3 is 60 years.

Ground breaking ceremony of this project took place in November, 2013 marking the formal start of the project leading to first concrete pour on 20th August 2014. Construction on both K-2 and K-3 units began in a sequential manner 10 months apart. Dome placement of K-3 containment building was done on September 2018, which marked the completion of construction phase and project entered the installation and commissioning phase.

Despite the Covid-19 pandemic,

both Pakistan and China ensured that important milestone of fuel loading for K-2 was accomplished in December 2020 after getting the fuel load license from Pakistan Nuclear Regulatory Authority. K-2 nuclear power plant started its commercial operation on 21st May, 2021. Consequently after completing the installation, the nuclear fuel for K-3 was loaded in December 2021 and it got connected to the national grid on 4th March 2022.

Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission (PAEC) with the help of China has already established a series of Nuclear power plants at Chashma, Mianwali. The Chashma Nuclear Power Generating Station (CNPGS) now comprises of four units with a total production capacity of over 1300 MW.

Nuclear power is indispensable when we think about how we can ensure a stable, affordable electricity supply while addressing climate change. All over the world stakeholders are coming to terms with nuclear new identity as clean power deserving of the same economic incentives as wind and solar.

For the world to mitigate climate change in the next 20 to 30 years, the energy sector needs to fundamentally transform into a low carbon energy supply system," says an energy systems analyst of the International Atomic Energy Agency IAEA. Nuclear power's resilience and safety records make it well positioned to help the global community overcome these challenges. According to many scientists and famous philanthropist Bill Gates — nuclear energy is part of the answer to the world's climate-change problem. The market for nuclear power could triple by 2050 across the world, according to a recent study.

Foregoing this scenario, it is heartening that through aegis of Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission, a milestone has been achieved in the form 22,00 Megawatt addition to country's electricity system paving the way for national development for years to come.

**Bull & Bears**  
PSX 100-Share  
Index Fluctuation

**Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index**

Current	Prev. Close
40,673.06	39,871.27
Day's High	Day's Low:
40,717.26	39,871.27
Index Value	Change
6,686,681,209	+801.79
Percentage	Time
+2.01%	Jan 31, 2023 5:00 pm

**Europe: FTSE 100 Index**

Index Value	Change
7,774.26	-10.61
Percentage	Time
-0.14%	31 Jan, 4:29 pm GMT

**USA: Dow Jones Industrial Average**

Index Value	Change
33,818.20	+101.11
Percentage	Time
+0.30%	31 Jan, 11:35 am GMT-5

**Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average**

Index Value	Change
27,327.11	-106.29
Percentage	Time
-0.39%	31 Jan, 3:15 pm GMT+9

**Open Market Forex Rates**

Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	190	193
Bahrain Dinar	702.68	710.68
Canadian Dollar	201.75	205
China Yuan	39.15	39.55
Danish Krone	38.6	39
Euro	290.22	290.82
Hong Kong Dollar	33.72	34.07
Indian Rupee	3.24	3.35
Japanese Yen	2.5	2.54
Kuwaiti Dinar	865.31	874.31
Malaysian Ringgit	62.24	62.84
New Zealand \$	171.35	173.35
Norwegians Krone	26.76	27.06
Omani Riyal	686.49	694.49
Qatari Riyal	72.58	73.28
Saudi Riyal	71.23	71.53
Singapore Dollar	201.2	203.2
Swedish Korona	25.45	25.75
Swiss Franc	286.19	288.69
Thai Bhat	8.06	8.21
U.A.E Dirham	72.78	73.08
UK Pound Sterling	330.48	331.18
US Dollar	267.63	268.13

# IMF-Pakistan discuss fiscal policies to accomplish 9th review

**Commerce Reporter**

ISLAMABAD: The International Monetary Fund (IMF) and Pakistan here on Tuesday discussed and reviewed the economic and fiscal policies as well as the reforms agenda to accomplish the 9th review under the Extended Fund Facility.

According to press statement issued by the finance ministry, Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator, Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar held a meeting with IMF review Mission led its Chief, Nathan Porter.

The meeting was attended by IMF resident Representative, Ms. Esther Perez Ruiz; Minister of State for Finance and Revenue, Dr. Aisha Ghous Pasha; Special Assistant to Prime Minister on Finance (SAPM), Tariq Bajwa, SAPM on Revenue, Tariq Mehmood Pasha, Governor State Bank of Pakistan (SBP), Jamil Ahmed, Secretary Finance, Chairman Federal Board of Revenue (FBR), members of IMF



delegation and senior officers from finance division.

The finance minister welcomed the delegation and shared long standing friendly relations with the IMF.

He briefed the mission on fiscal and economic reforms and measures being taken

by the government in different sectors including bridging the fiscal gap, exchange rate stability and in energy sector for the betterment of the economy.

He apprised that reforms were being introduced in power sector and a high level committee has been formed for devising

modalities to offset the menace of circular debt in gas sector.

Dar also extended gratitude to the Managing Director of IMF on continuation of talks and shared that as Finance Minister he had successfully completed the IMF programme in the past and that the government was committed to complete the current programme.

He further extended all his support to the Mission and committed to work together for reaching an agreement to complete the 9th review under Extended Fund Facility (EFF).

IMF Mission Chief, expressed his confidence that the government will meet the IMF requirements for the completion of the 9th review and hoped that Pakistan would continue towards its progress on the reforms in various sectors and complete the IMF Programme within time effectively.

He further added that IMF and Pakistan will be working together on fiscal reforms, the statement added.

## Repairing

FAISALABAD: Workers are busy in repairing gas stove at their workplace alongside Railway Road in the city.



Photo: Online

## SECP for effective implementation of Motor Third Party Liability Insurance

**Staff Reporter**

ISLAMABAD: The Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) has formed a working group to explore the possibilities and mechanism for effective implementation of "Motor Third Party Liability (TPL) Insurance" in the country.

The group, comprises industry experts, representatives of Insurance Association of Pakistan (IAP) and SECP officials, will formulate a detailed proposal for effective implementation of Motor TPL Insurance including mechanism for coordination with relevant authorities.

The first meeting of the working group held at

SECP head office, discussed in detail the implementation of Motor TPL insurance under the existing laws. It was agreed that the recommendations will include schedule for engagement with other relevant bodies, public awareness, availability of affordable products and central database of motor insurance policies.

Motor TPL Insurance offers insurance protection against death, bodily injury and property damage to the victims of road traffic accidents or their legal heirs. TPL insurance is also mandatory in almost all jurisdictions of the world, including neighboring countries i.e. India, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka.

## Bangladesh will get about \$3.3 billion under the IMF's extended credit facility

**News Desk**

ISLAMABAD: The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has approved loans of \$4.7 billion to Bangladesh for disbursement starting immediately, making it the first to secure such funds out of three South Asian countries that applied last year amid economic trouble.

The loans are a win for Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina ahead of a general election early next year and will help the country, which has seen a sharp widening of its current account deficit, depreciation of the taka currency and a decline in its foreign exchange reserves.

Bangladesh will get about \$3.3 billion under the IMF's extended credit facility and related arrangements, with an immediate disbursement of about \$476 million. The IMF executive board also approved about \$1.4 billion under its newly created Resilience and Sustainability Facility for climate investments for Bangladesh, the first Asian country to access it.

The IMF said the loans will "protect macroeconomic stability and rebuild buffers, while helping to advance the authorities' reform agenda". The agenda includes creating fiscal space to enable greater social and developmental spend-

ing, strengthening Bangladesh's financial sector, boosting fiscal and governance reforms and building climate resilience.

"Since independence, Bangladesh has made steady progress in reducing poverty and significant improvements in living standards," Antoinette M. Sayeh, the IMF's deputy managing director, said in a statement.

"However, the COVID-19 pandemic and subsequent Russia's war in Ukraine interrupted this long period of robust economic performance," Sayeh added. "Multiple shocks have made macroeconomic management challenging in Bangladesh."

The country last year also sought \$2 billion from the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank amid efforts to bolster its foreign exchange reserves.

Bangladesh's regional counterparts are doing much worse economically but have not been able to get final approval for IMF loans.

Bangladesh's current account deficit hit a record \$18.7 billion in the last financial year, which ended on June 30, as exports of garments failed to offset a surge in energy costs. The Bangladesh central bank expects the deficit to fall to about \$6.8 billion at the end of the current fiscal year.

## Tola-led body reaches out to FPCCI for taxation reforms

**Spokesman Report**

KARACHI : Mr. Irfan Iqbal Sheikh, President FPCCI, has apprised that the high-powered Reforms & Resource Mobilization Commission (RRMC) of the Government of Pakistan; with a full-fledged secretariat at the FBR Head Office and headed by the world-renowned chartered accountant, Mr. Ashfaq Tola; has reached out to FPCCI for the proposals on taxation reforms; mobilizing & saving national resources and federal budget 2023 - 24.

Mr. Suleman Chawla, SVP FPCCI, maintained that the biggest issue with meaningful participation in the budget-making exercise is that most of the recommendations and proposals forwarded to the federal government, through the platform of FPCCI, are not given due consideration; which in turn, discourages the business, industry and trade community - as FPCCI is their apex body.

## PKR appreciates by Rs1.75 against greenback in interbank

**Bureau Report**

KARACHI : After a lapse of several days the Pakistani rupee made a little come back on Tuesday, appreciating Rs1.75 against the US dollar in the interbank market.

The local currency was closed at Rs267.88 against the dollar. Today's improvement in the currency's value comes after the International Monetary Fund (IMF) team held fresh round of dialogue with Pakistan's economic team in the federal capital.

On Monday, the PKR had witnessed significant depreciation as well, settling at 269.63 after a fall of Rs7.03 or 2.61 per cent. This was its weakest inter-bank closing level in history.

Fitch Solutions warns Pak rupee to weaken further

The Pakistani rupee is expected to weaken further,

particularly with Pakistan's balance of payments positions likely to remain weak for several more months, Fitch Solutions predicted on Tuesday.

It warned that the rupee depreciation will have broader economic implications for the country which is already gripped by a major economic crisis, with the local unit plummeting, inflation soaring and energy in short supply.

In its quick view, the New York-based research agency noted that the rupee's devaluation was triggered by the decision among local foreign exchange companies to remove the self-imposed cap on the exchange rate on January 25.

The State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) initially intervened, but the significant depreciation in the rupee "is a clear sign the authorities have effectively loosened their grip on the currency."

# Fiscal consolidation key to saving reserves, exchange-rate stability: Economic Outlook

**News Desk**

ISLAMABAD: The Finance Ministry in its latest report on state of economy released here Tuesday termed fiscal consolidation as the key to saving official reserves and exchange rate stability of the country.

According to monthly Economic Update and Outlook for January 2023, released by the ministry, the fiscal consolidation may temporarily be costly in terms of growth prospects in the short term. However, long-run prosperity and growth could only be achieved by augmenting the country's long-term equilibrium growth path by expanding production capacities and productivity.

It says, the first five months of current fiscal year have ended with some developments; containing fiscal deficit and surplus in primary balance due to effective fiscal management.

The report says, Pakistan was currently confronted with the challenges like high inflation, low growth, and low levels of official

foreign exchange reserves.

Further Month-on-Month (MoM) increases in consumer prices may be countered by a further mean reverting international commodity prices and some exchange rate stability due to decreased pace of depreciation.

The overall money supply (M2) growth remains compatible with a return to low and stable inflation, says the report adding but the outlook of M2 is broadly dependent on fiscal accounts which are under immense pressure on account of heavy interest payments and rehabilitation spending.

According to the report, inflationary pressure was expected to calm down gradually due to flood-led damages which have disrupted the supply of essential items.

On agricultural front, the wheat crop sowing is being estimated at 21.48 million acres which is 94 percent of target area of 22.85 million acres. The government pro-Agri initiatives are playing role in the



**Monthly ECONOMIC UPDATE & OUTLOOK**  
January 2023



revival of agriculture sector productivity.

On industrial activity, the report says, monetary tightening, import compression strategies, and recessionary global pressure continued to suppress the performance of the manufacturing sector since the beginning of

the current fiscal year.

During July-November FY2023, the LSM witnessed a contraction of 3.6 percent against the growth of 7.2 percent same period last year. On Year-on-Year (basis), LSM plunged by 5.5 percent in November 2022, while over the previous month, it grew by 3.5 percent.

The fiscal deficit during July-November FY2023 has been contained to the same level of 1.4 percent of GDP as it was recorded in the comparable period last year. While the deficit of Rs 36 billion (-0.1 percent of GDP) last year.

The provisional net tax collection increased by 17.4 percent to Rs 3428.8 billion during July-December FY2023 against Rs 2919.9 billion in the same period last year. The increase in growth is largely attributed to a 49 percent growth in direct taxes.

The Current Account posted a deficit of \$ 3.7 billion for Jul-Dec FY2023 as against a deficit of \$ 9.1 billion last year, mainly due to contraction in imports. However, the current

account deficit shrank to \$ 400 million in December 2022 as against \$ 1857 million in same period last year, largely reflecting an improvement in trade balance.

Foreign direct investment (FDI) reached \$ 460.9 million during July-December FY2023 (\$ 1114.7 million last year) decreasing by 58.7 percent.

In July-December FY2023, workers' remittances recorded at \$ 14.1 billion (\$ 15.8 billion last year), decreased by 11.1 percent. MoM basis, remittances decreased by 3.2 percent in December 2022 (\$ 2.0 billion) as compared to November (\$ 2.1 billion).

Pakistan's total liquid foreign exchange reserves increased to \$ 9.45 billion on January 24, 2023, with the SBP's reserves now standing at \$ 3.678 billion. Commercial banks' reserves remained at \$ 5.77 billion.

The KSE-100 index closed at 40,420 points as of 30th December 2022 while market capitalization settled at Rs 6,501 billion, it adds.

# PHF imposes life ban on Olympian Junaid for '12 players blunder'

**Sports Reporter**

LAHORE: The Pakistan Hockey Federation (PHF) on Tuesday imposed a lifetime ban on former team manager and Olympian Khawaja Junaid.

According to the PHF, the decision was made by the inquiry committee, founded to investigate the Pakistan team's costly error during the Asia Cup match against Japan in 2022 when the green shirts fielded 12 players instead of 11.

Due to the blunder, the national team had a crucial goal disallowed against Japan and ended up on the losing side, which, consequently seized Pakistan's expedition to qualify for the World Cup.

Notably, Pakistan needed to make it to the Super Fours of the continental event but could only finish fifth in the six-team tournament after beating Bangladesh in the rankings match.



Meanwhile, in an official statement, PHF stated that Junaid's blunder resulted in Pakistan facing embarrassment,

while the decision to ban him is in line with the Federation of International Hockey (FIH) guidelines.

"Pakistan faced a lot of embarrassment due to Khawaja Junaid. Due to his misconduct, Pakistan failed to qualify for the World Cup," said PHF.

"The decision to ban him has been taken in line with FIH rules," the statement added.

Meanwhile, the federation also confirmed that PHF President Khalid Sajjad Khokhar also approved the decision of banning Junaid as his mistake was irredeemable.

"The committee called Khawaja Junaid but he did not come. The misconduct of Khawaja Junaid is unforgivable," said PHF.

"In the light of the inquiry committee's report, after the approval of PHF President Brigadier R. Khalid Sajjad Khokhar, Khawaja Junaid has been banned for life. Khawaja Junaid will not be able to participate in any hockey activity," the statement concluded.

# Wolf Pack Club lifts title of COMBAXX Karachi Powerlifting Championship

**Sports Desk**

KARACHI: In a superb display of talent, the Wolf Pack Club won 4 gold, 2 silver and 1 bronze medals to lift the title of the COMBAXX Karachi Powerlifting Championship organized by the Pakistan Powerlifting Federation and Karachi Division Powerlifting Association with the support of Combaxx Sports at Beach View Club here on Tuesday.

Energetics Club emerged as the ultimate runners-up by winning 3 gold, 3 silver and 1 bronze medals while Karachi Gymkhana won 1 gold, 1 silver and 1 bronze medal to secure third place in the championship.

The winners' Wolf Pack

Club got a total of 92 points while the runners-up Energetics Club got 87 points and Karachi Gymkhana secured 81 points.

More than 60 powerlifters participated in this high-profile Push and Pull Powerlifting Championship.

Shehroze won in the 59kg category while Sarmad won in the 66kg category, Muhammad Taha in 74kg, Ahmad Irfan in 83 kg, Muhammad Jahangir in 93 kg, Nasruminullah in 105 kg, Nadir Khan in 120 kg, and Murad Ikram in plus 120 kg wins the gold medal.

On the occasion of prize distribution, Chief Guest CEO Combaxx Sports Omar Saeed, Rashid Malik of Pakistan Powerlifting Federa-

tion, Advisor Powerlifting Athar Kamran Butt, Director Combaxx Sports Taimur Saeed and General Manager Zubair Macha were also present on the occasion.

Chief Guest Omar Saeed said powerlifting sports are gaining popularity among the youth which is a good augury and added that physical fitness is very important in this sport.

"Karachi Powerlifting Association has taken an important step by successfully organizing the championship, which will prove to be a milestone for the promotion of powerlifting in the coming times, he said, adding, Our organization is providing international standard products for international

events and inter-provincial and inter-divisional tournaments, training courses and coaching clinics, including national and inter-provincial championships held in Pakistan, for sports federations and associations, quality and international standard kits and sports equipment are supplied and provided at discounted prices for the sake of promotion of sports, he concluded.

Rashid Malik thanked the sponsors of the championship especially Combaxx Sports and JS Bank for their great support to popularize and promote the sport of powerlifting in the country and introduce young athletes to this sport with unwavering support.

# PCB 'allows' cricketers to play BPL till February 8



LAHORE: Pakistan players, who had previously been told to ensure their return to Pakistan by February 2, have been allowed to participate in the ongoing Bangladesh Premier League (BPL) till February 8, sources said Tuesday.

However, the Pakistan Cricket Board's (PCB) decision is only applicable to those players who are not part of the upcoming exhibition match in Quetta between Peshawar Zalmi and Quetta Gladiators.

Players who are set to participate in the exhibition match on February 5 have been asked to return home by February 2.

Earlier, all the players had been advised by the PCB to return to the country by February 2, eleven days before the PSL 8 is to start in Multan. The PCB had said that it has recalled the players who would be playing in PSL 8 due to the request of the franchises who urged for their return.

It is worth mentioning here that top players of the national T20 side including Mohammad Rizwan, Haris Rauf, Iftikhar Ahmed, and Naseem Shah, along with others, are participating in BPL 2023.

Earlier, PCB chairman Najam Sethi instructed all players that their participation in the exhibition match scheduled in Quetta is mandatory.

In no ambiguous terms, Sethi said "It's our contractual right that whenever we want our players, we can call them back anytime from anywhere. This happens all around the world. I know they want to earn money by completing their contract, but we need them to fulfil our national interest."

It must be noted that the opening ceremony of PSL 8 will be held in Multan on February 13 prior to the tournament opener between 2021 winners Multan Sultans and defending champions Lahore Qalandars; closing ceremony and final will be played on March 19 in Lahore, which will also host play-offs.

Lahore Qalandars will attempt to become the first side to win back-to-back titles; meanwhile Islamabad United will aim to become the most successful side by lifting the trophy thrice.

Rawalpindi will stage 11 fixtures, Karachi and Lahore will host nine matches each, whereas Multan will have five home games.

# Leicestershire sign India's Rahane as Narine returns to Surrey

**Sports Desk**

LONDON: Leicestershire have signed India's Ajinkya Rahane for part of the 2023 English domestic season, the Midlands county announced Tuesday.

The 34-year-old, who has captained his country in all formats, will arrive at Grace Road in June and be available for eight first-class County Championship matches and all of the One-Day Cup.

Rahane has scored 4,931 runs, including 12 centuries, in 82 Tests and 2,962 runs in 90 one-day internationals, although it is just over a year since he last represented India.

Leicestershire finished bottom in last season's Second Division of the County Championship without winning a match.

Rahane, who previously had a county stint with Hampshire in 2019 where he scored a century on debut against Nottinghamshire, said in a statement: "I'm really happy to be joining Leicestershire for the



upcoming season.

"I can't wait to play alongside my new team-mates and explore the vibrant city of Leicester."

Leicestershire director of cricket Claude Henderson added: "He (Rahane) comes with a lot of experience and a tremendous work ethic. It's a great opportunity for us to tap into that."

Meanwhile Surrey have re-signed West Indies spinner Sunil Narine for the 2023 Blast.

Narine will be available for all fixtures that do not clash with his commitments to the Kolkata Knight Riders in the lucrative Indian Premier League.

Last year, Narine took 14 wickets at an economy of

5.96 per over in the Blast, and hit 199 runs at a strike rate of 163.11.

"Getting knocked out in the quarter-final last year was a real disappointment with the team we had," Narine said in a club statement. "I know we can do better this year and will do what I can to help get us to Finals Day."

# Bayern Munich sign Cancelo on loan from Man City

**Sports Desk**

BERLIN: Bayern Munich have signed Portugal wing-back Joao Cancelo on loan until the end of the season from Manchester City, the German club confirmed on Tuesday.

Bayern have an option to buy the Portuguese defender for a reported 70 million euros (\$75 million) at the end of the season.

Cancelo, who has scored seven times in 41 appearances for Portugal, arrived in Munich on Monday and completed a medical on Tuesday for a move that could spell the end of France international Benjamin Pavard's time at Bayern.

The 28-year-old Portuguese

defender joined City from Juventus for 65 million euros (\$70 million) in 2019 and has a contract with the English champions until 2027.

"FC Bayern is a great club, one of the best in the world, and it's enormous motivation for me to now play alongside these extraordinary players in a team," Cancelo said in a statement released by the club on Tuesday.

"I know that this club, this team lives for titles and wins titles every year. I'm also driven by the hunger for success."

Cancelo has won multiple titles throughout his career, including league titles with Benfica, Juventus and Man City. Bayern sporting director

Hasan Salihamidzic said the club "had been thinking about (Cancelo) for a while" before making its move.

"He's the optimal fit in our system with his attacking style of play and dynamism, and his mentality and experience fit very well in our team.

"I'm convinced Joao will help us in the coming weeks and months where we want to win titles."

Bayern secured the deadline-day signing after Cancelo, who has been named in the Premier League Team of the Year for the past two seasons, has fallen out of the Man City first team in recent weeks.

Manager Pep Guardiola has left Cancelo out of the starting



line-up in each of the team's last three games, with academy graduate Rico Lewis, alongside Nathan Ake, Kyle Walker and John Stones all preferred to Cancelo.

Cancelo could make his Bayern debut in the club's German Cup match away against Mainz on Wednesday, or in their away Bundesliga clash with Wolfsburg on Sunday.

# Pakistan to face Palestine in West Asia Baseball finals

**Sports Desk**

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan will face Palestine in the final of the West Asia Baseball Cup 2023 for the championship title on Wednesday at Pakistan Sports Complex here.

In the first semi-final, the Palestinian team had thrashed Bangladesh by 14-03 and qualified for finals, whereas in the second semi-final, the host country beat Sri Lanka by 16-01. The final would be played tomorrow at 1 p.m.

Both teams also qualified for the Asian Baseball Championship in Taiwan, a qualifying tournament for the Baseball World Cup.

# Rising Star win in Malir Gymkhana Golden Jubilee Cricket Tournament

**Sports Desk**

KARACHI: Rising Star Cricket Club defeated Strong Nazimabad Gymkhana by 1 Wicket in the Malir Gymkhana Golden Jubilee Invitation Cricket Tournament at Landhi Gymkhana ground. The Tournament is being Organized by Malir Gymkhana Zone 4 with the Permission of Pakistan Cricket Board.

Summarised Scores:

Nazimabad Gymkhana 146 all out in 30.5 overs. Khurram Shehzad 34 not out, Owais Rehmani 20, Shahid Nisar 20, Afnan Khan (Ils) 3 for 15, Kashif Iqbal 2/19, Uzair Akbar 2/26, Asadullah Hamza 2/30.

Rising Star Cricket Club 148/9 in 34.2overs. Abdullah Fazal 27, Asad Iqbal 24, Uzair Akbar 20, Kashif Iqbal 16, Asadullah Hamza 12, M.Usama 12 not out. Mansoor Ahmed 3/38, M.Waqas 2/23, Arif Yaqoob 2/27.

# Farah says 2023 London Marathon will be his last



**Sports Desk**

LONDON: British athletics great Mo Farah has said this year's London Marathon will likely be his last as he contemplates the end of a brilliant career.

The 40-year-old is best known for his success on the track winning gold in the 5,000 and 10,000 metres at both the London 2012 and Rio 2016 Olympic Games, as well as several world titles across both distances.

And while his marathon career has reached nothing like the same heights, Farah is keen to run in London again after missing last year's edition even though he will be 40 by the time of the April 23 race.

"It's been an amazing career and taking part in the London Marathon is a very big deal," he said in a statement issued by event organisers.

"I was gutted not to race last year and I just want to give it one more shot.

"It depends on my body. I just want to get to the start line and see what I can manage. I'm just taking one race at a time."

He added: "I'm not a spring chicken any more. You can't keep coming back in the right shape and, for me, I'd love to be able to finish it at home."

Farah has ruled out competing at the 2024 Olympics in Paris, but may yet try to finish his time as a British international at this year's World Championships in Budapest.

"I'm not going to go to the Olympics and I think 2023 will be my last year," he added.

"But if it came down to it towards the end of the year and you did get picked for your country, I'd never turn that down."

Farah last ran in London in 2019, coming fifth, having finished third the year before.

"So it's been a little while," he said. "But I'll be preparing well, I'll head out to Ethiopia and put in a lot of solid training and see what I can do when it comes to April."

# Joburg Super Kings sign Matthew Wade for SA20 remainder



**By A Sports**

JOHANNESBURG: The SA20 franchise Joburg Super Kings have signed Australia's wicketkeeper batter for the remainder of the league.

According to the details, Wade, who represented Australia in 36 Tests, 97 ODIs and 75 T20s will represent the Super Kings in the SA20 remainder, which resumes on Thursday (February 2nd).

The wicketkeeper batter was an integral part of Australia's world cup winning team in the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2021, including his astounding knock against Pakistan in the semi-final.

Earlier, Wade represented Hobart Hurricanes in the ongoing Big Bash League (BBL) and is the 17th-highest run-getter of the ongoing edition, accumulating 307 runs at an average of 25.28 and a strike rate of 131.19.

It is pertinent to mention that Wade is the latest in the batch of overseas players to join SA20 as replacements for other cricketers, who departed for their respective international duties.

After his stint in the South African league, Wade will represent Karachi Kings in the upcoming eighth edition of the Pakistan Super League (PSL), scheduled to commence on February 13.