



Pakistanis biggest support for Kashmiris: Mashaal Malik

Kashmiri's freedom struggle leader Yasin Malik's wife Mashaal Malik said on Thursday that Pakistani people were the biggest support for the people of Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJ&K), and they could highlight the cause of help valley people across the world. (Report on Page 8)



Success would be when women exit the programme and become self-reliant

Faisal Kundi appreciated the work of HRDN and Oxfam in promoting gender justice, equality and their overall struggle for social and economic protection of women and girls. He talked about the Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP) that has a total of 8.7 million beneficiaries, all of whom are women from poor households. (Report on Page 3)

Simultaneously published from Islamabad, Lahore and Multan

Inauguration K-3

KARACHI: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif in a group photo with the Chinese dignitaries and PAEC engineers on the occasion of inauguration of unit 3 of Karachi Nuclear Power Plant (K-3) on Thursday.



Photo: PID

Islamabad Police gets 2-day physical remand of Sheikh Rasheed

City Reporter
ISLAMABAD: A judicial magistrate court on Thursday granted a two-day physical remand of Awami Muslim League's (AML) head Sheikh Rasheed Ahmed to the Aappara Police of Islamabad in a case of levelling allegations against former president Asif Ali Zardari.
Sheikh Rasheed was presented before the court of Judicial Magistrate Umar Shabbir amid foolproof security.
At the outset of the hearing, Public Prosecutor Muhammad Adnan read out the content of first information report (FIR) against Sheikh Rasheed.
He said Sheikh Rasheed was hurling threats to the family of Asif Zardari and for that he could be jailed for seven years along with fine under the sections of law applied in the FIR.
The prosecutor said the accused had claimed in his statement that the former president had hatched a conspiracy to murder Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf Chairman Imran Khan. An attempt on the life of PTI chairman had already been carried out and in such a situation the accused was trying to create clash between the parties of Imran Khan and Asif Ali Zardari.
Sheikh Rasheed, on the occasion, said he had just repeated the statement of Imran Khan and termed it true.
He said that the police had not tortured him during the custody, however, his mobile phones were taken. The police had served a notice to him that as they wanted to arrest him, he added.
Sheikh Rasheed's lawyer Abdul Razzaq Advocate said that FIR was registered against his client last night. He opposed the plea for physical remand, arguing that the Islamabad High Court had already suspended the police notice in the case. His client had not mentioned any political party in his statement, he added.
The lawyer said a Pakistan Peoples Party's activist was the complainant in the FIR instead of Asif Zardari. Only the federal or provincial government could get registered a case under sections 505 and 503, he added.

PM inaugurates 1,100 MW K-3 nuclear power plant in Karachi

Bureau Report

KARACHI: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Thursday inaugurated K-3, the third unit of Karachi Nuclear Power Plant (KANUP), which will produce 1,100 mega watt of electricity.
The project has been completed with assistance from China.
Addressing the occasion, the prime minister said K-3 was a step forward in cooperation with Pakistan's trusted friend China.
He congratulated the scientists and workers of Pakistan and China which led to the completion of the project.
He said the staff of the Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission who contributed to the project would be invited to the Prime Minister's Office for public recognition.
The prime minister said in view of \$27 billion energy import bill, Pakistan required alternative and cheaper sources of energy including solar, wind, hydel and nuclear.
He said Pakistan was gifted with enormous resources with the potential of producing 60,000 mega watts through hydel power, however, regretted that the power generation stood merely at 10,000 megawatt.



He recalled that the project of KANUP was finalized during the tenure of then prime minister Nawaz Sharif and expressed gratitude to the government of China for extending cooperation in this regard.
Shehbaz Sharif mentioned that the electricity projects under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor were greatly contributing to the country's energy demands through the production of thousands of megawatts.
Director General International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Rafael Mariano Grossi in a video message emphasized the importance of using safe use of nuclear energy as Pakistan faced challenges of climate change.
Chairman Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission Raja Ali Raza Anwar said National Electric Power Regulatory Authority had declared KANUP as a high power producing facility with its 27.15 per cent production.

IMF demands declaration of Pakistan's public servants' assets

Commerce Reporter
ISLAMABAD: The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has demanded Pakistan to amend laws for assets declaration of public servants.
An IMF mission arrived in Islamabad on January 30 to discuss the stalled ninth review of the \$7 billion Extended Fund Facility (EFF).
According to the sources at the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR), the IMF insisting public declaration of the government servants' assets. The international lender has also demanded details of the overseas assets of the bureaucracy, sources said.
The IMF has also demanded establishment of an authority to make public the government officers' assets, according to sources.
The lender demanded to make movable and immovable assets of bureaucrats in overseas to ensure transparency and accountability, according to sources. It has demanded to set up an Electronic Assets Declaration System for transparency.
"Bureaucrats assets will be checked prior to opening of a bank account," sources said. "Banks will get information from the FBR for opening of accounts of bureaucrats."
"All 17 to 22 Grade officers have to provide all information before opening a bank account," sources said.
The IMF has asked Pakistan to impose roughly Rs600-800 billion in additional taxes in the second round of talks to revive \$7 billion Extended Fund Facility (EFF) stalled for months.
According to details, the Federal Revenue Board held a second round of technical talks with IMF mission, led by Mission Chief to Pakistan Nathan Porter, on the ninth review of a \$7 billion loan programme.

PM to hold APC on Feb 7 to meet challenges, invites Imran

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif Thursday called an All Parties Conference (APC) to discuss ways to overcome the current national challenges.
The APC having representation from across the political spectrum will be held on February 7 in Islamabad as invitations have been extended to all the leading political leaders.
The prime minister has also invited Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan to attend the conference.
Federal Minister Sardar Ayaz Sadiq contacted PTI leaders Asad Qaiser and Pervez Khattak, and conveyed the prime minister's invitation.
The PM also invited two representatives of the PTI to the apex committee meeting to be held in Peshawar on Friday, and the invitation in that regard was also conveyed by Ayaz Sadiq. The minister requested the PTI leaders to inform about the two nominated representatives of the party for the apex committee meeting.

PML-N to clean sweep upcoming elections: Maryam

Khalid Choudhary

BAHAWALPUR: Senior Vice President and Chief Organizer of Pakistan Muslim League-N, Maryam Nawaz Thursday said that her party would clean sweep upcoming elections by defeating political opponents.
She accompanied by Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting, Marriyum Aurangzeb, Minister for Interior, Rana Sana Ullah, PML-N leaders including Saud Majeed and others was addressing a news conference here.
She said that PML-N had fully prepared to contest upcoming elections in Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and National Assembly seats.
"PML-N is largest political party of the county which will clean sweep upcoming elections by defeating Imran Khan and his allies," she said.
The PML-N senior vice president said there was no truth in propaganda of political victimization.
She said that the person should be punished and brought to justice who had committed guilt and crime.
"We are not in favour of political victimization and it is clear that there is no truth in propaganda of political victimization raised by our political rivals," she said.
She said that our political rivals had been making false and baseless propaganda that Shahid Khaqan



Abbasi had some difference with the party's leadership.
"Former prime minister, Shahid Khaqan Abbasi is like that of my brother and he is our companion," she said, adding that Abbasi was like that member of Sharif family.
She said that PML-N had made all arrangements to contest upcoming elections.
Referring to Peshawar Mosque bomb blast, she raised question why the borders with a neighbor country were opened by previous regime.
"Who opened borders for terrorists," she raised question.
Maryam said that previous regime was responsible for woes, problems and difficulties being faced by the masses.
"Wrong financial policies introduced by Imran Khan-led government caused financial constraints

Imran Riaz Khan arrested from Lahore airport

Web Desk

LAHORE: The Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) on Thursday arrested anchorperson Imran Riaz Khan, a vocal critic of the current government, from Lahore airport. Imran Riaz Khan was stopped and arrested by the FIA Cyber-crime Wing at the Lahore Airport when he was trying to travel to UAE.
Earlier, Imran Riaz Khan said he was informed by authorities that his name was "blacklisted" and he can't leave the country. The anchorperson said his luggage was seized and was asked to wait.
The FIA cybercrime wing has shifted Imran Khan to Gulberg from Lahore airport. He will be produced before the FIA court today.
This is not the first time that Imran Riaz Khan has been arrested, last year, the journalist was also taken into custody by the contingents of Rangers and police from Islamabad Toll Plaza.
Later, he was granted bail by the Lahore High Court.

Pakistan to enhance economic relations with Japan: Dar



Spokesman Report
ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar here on Thursday reiterated his government's resolve to enhance and strengthen bilateral economic and trade relations with Japan.
The minister was talking to Ambassador of Japan, Wada Mitsuhiro, who called on him here, according to press statement issued by the finance ministry.
He said Japan was one of the major development partners of Pakistan adding that he firmly believed that the cooperation would further strengthen in multiple fields for mutual benefit.
He said, both the countries were enjoying sound friendly relations which have been getting stronger with each passing day. He gave a brief overview of the economic challenges and apprised the ambassador of economic policies and reforms of the government to set things in right path.

Group Photo

ISLAMABAD: Chairman Senate, Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani in a group photo with students of Metropolitan International United College Islamabad, at Parliament House, Islamabad on Thursday.



Photo: PID

Pakistan to keep extending unwavering support to Kashmiris: PM

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Thursday said that Pakistan would keep extending its unwavering support to the people of Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir who had been cornered through the Indian illegal actions of August 2019.

The prime minister, chairing a meeting to review the preparations for the observance of Kashmir Solidarity Day on February 5, said the people of Pakistan would not sit idle till the just resolution



of Kashmir dispute.

He instructed all the relevant departments to work in cohesion regarding the prepara-

tations for Kashmir Solidarity Day.

The representatives of the federal ministries, governments of the provinces as well as Gilgit Baltistan and Azad Jammu and Kashmir briefed the prime minister about their respective preparations.

They told the meeting that rallies, walks, photo exhibitions, debate contests and other events would be held across the country.

Addressing the participants, the prime minister said that for the last 75 years, India had illegally occupied Jammu and

Kashmir and the violence had increased in recent days.

He reiterated the resolve that the voice of the Kashmiri people would be conveyed to the whole world and that the people of Pakistan would keep up their support for the oppressed Kashmiris.

Federal ministers Khawaja Saad Rafiq, Marriyum Aurangzeb, Maulana Asad Mahmood, Rana Tanveer Hussain and Aminul Haq, Advisor to PM Qamar Zaman Kaira, Special Assistant to PM Tariq Fatemi and senior officers attended the meeting.

Pakistanis biggest support for Kashmiris: Mashal Malik

Bureau Report

LAHORE: Kashmiri's freedom struggle leader Yasin Malik's wife Mashal Malik said on Thursday that Pakistani people were the biggest support for the people of Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJ&K), and they could highlight the cause of help valley people across the world.

She was addressing a ceremony through video-link, which was jointly organised by the Unique Group of Institutions (UGIs) and Aiwan-e-Iqbal at the college auditorium here. She said Kashmiris were offering sacrifices for decades to live in an independent country. He called upon the youth to play their role for liberation of Kashmir and exposing the Indian atrocities as well as propaganda before the world.

She said Kashmiris and Pakistanis observe Kashmir Solidarity Day every year on February 5, across the world, but the Indian oppression of Kashmiris people was going on unabated. She regretted that Indian atrocities had intensified in held Kashmir after 2019. Mashal said struggle to highlight the Indian barbaric acts in held Kashmir would have to be accelerated, and the entire would have to be apprised of these atrocities before the February 5 next year.

Addressing the ceremony, known defence analyst Lt-Gen (ret'd) Ghulam Mustafa said that Kashmir's liberation was a writing on the wall and the day was not far away when Indian would disintegrate into parts due to the liberation movements going on in that country. He said Kashmiri people had almost succeeded in break-



ing the yoke of Indian slavery, and now only geographical compulsions were in place now.

UGI Chairman Prof Abdul Mannan Khurram said "we pay salute to our martyred and ghazis on the Kashmir Day". He said Pakistani youth would

never back out whenever the motherland would need any sacrifices. He said now wars between nations were being fought in scientific laboratories, universities, economic and justice fronts, and Pakistani youth would have to prepare themselves for these

wars. Speaking at the ceremony, Fatima Jinnah Medical University Vice Chancellor Dr Khalid Masood Gondal said Pakistan armed forces had always protected country's geographical boundaries, and Kashmiris would win their freedom from India soon if Pakistani people would keep standing with the armed forces of the country.

A special documentary on held Kashmir was also shown to the audience. Students presented Kashmiri and Pakistani national songs.

UGI Vice Chairman Afeef Ashraf Siddiqui, Director Unique Group Prof Wasim Anwar Chaudhry, Head Promotions and Admin Prof Riazul Haq, principals of various UGI branches and a large number of students also attended the function.

IHC rejects PTI's plea against ECP notice in prohibited funding case

City Reporter

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Thursday turned down a petition filed by the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf against the Election Commission of Pakistan's (ECP) verdict in the prohibited funding case.

A larger bench, headed by Chief Justice Aamer Farooq and comprising Justice Miangul Hassan and Justice Babar Sattar, announced the verdict which had been reserved on Jan 11 after hearing arguments from both sides.

In August last, the top electoral body served a show-cause notice on the Imran Khan-led party after it ruled that the PTI received funds from prohibited sources. The ECP said in its ruling the PTI got funds from business tycoon Arif Naqvi and 34 foreign

nationals. It further said the party had taken ownership of eight accounts and kept 16 hidden.

In the verdict, the high court declared the electoral watchdog's show-cause notice legal and threw out the petition of the PTI.

The PTI, in its petition, argued that the electoral body had labelled it a "foreign-aided" party and termed the declaration submitted by PTI Chairman Imran Khan in the case false. He also accused the ECP of targeting the PTI in the case.

During the previous hearings, IHC Chief Justice Aamer Farooq remarked that the ECP had just made "observation" in its decision, adding that if the PTI provided evidence to prove its funding legal, the decision would have to be changed accordingly.

UNSC reform should increase developing countries' say: China



News Desk

BEIJING: A Chinese foreign ministry spokesperson said on Thursday that the reform of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) should increase the representation and say of the developing countries in the international affairs.

"China always believes that the reform of the Security Council should enhance the authority and efficacy of the Security Council, increase the representation and say of developing countries," Mao Ning said during her regular briefing in response to a

statement of UN General Assembly President, Csaba Korosi in which he stressed on bringing reforms in UN Security Council.

She said that the reforms should give more small and medium-sized countries the opportunity to participate in the decision-making of the organization and ensure that the Security Council can better function as mandated by the UN Charter.

"China will continue to play a constructive role in the discussions within the framework of the General Assembly on the reform issue," she added.

Fawad sees no future of Zardari, Nawaz in politics

Bureau Report

LAHORE: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) senior leader Fawad Chaudhry said on Thursday there was no future of Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) supremo Nawaz Sharif and former president Asif Ali Zardari in politics.

Speaking to media, Mr Chaudhry took a swipe at PML-N Senior Vice President Maryam Nawaz and said the latter should have consulted a psychologist rather than undergoing surgery. Calling for the dire need of stability in the country, Mr Chaudhry alleged efforts were being made to destabilise it.

Recalling the PTI's tenure, Mr Chaudhry said, "During this period, not even a single event of bombing occurred in the country." The Imran-led government played a crucial role for settling the matters with Afghanistan.

Taking a swipe at PML-N senior leader Khawaja Asif, Mr Chaudhry said, "Mr Asif said Imran was responsible for bringing the terrorism in the



country. His [Khawaja's] statements reflect that how serious he was."

Mr Chaudhry reiterated his demand for elections in Punjab and KP to be held within 90 days, saying, "If elections are not held in due time, then there will be a violation of the constitution."

Continuing to talk about the elections, he said, "If both the governors will not give the date for elections, then they can be tried under Article 6."

PTI leader Hammad Azhar said that it were only elections that could pave the way for country's stability as economic crisis was intertwined with political instability.

Talking to media, he said accusing people of treachery, arrests, and dilly-dallying on elections could not help bring stability in the country.

Pakistan's total liquid foreign reserves reach \$ 8.74 billion

Bureau Report

KARACHI: Pakistan's total liquid foreign reserves stood at US\$ 8,741.7 million in the week ending on January 27, 2023.

The central bank, in a statement issued here on Thursday, stated that the foreign reserves held by the State Bank of Pakistan were US\$ 3,086.2 million while net foreign reserves held by commercial banks were US\$ 5,655.5 million.

The SBP's reserves decreased by US\$ 592 million to US\$ 3,086.2 million due to external debt repayments during the period, the statement said.

In the previous week that ended on January 20, total liquid foreign reserves held by the country were US\$ 9,453.2 million.

FBR launches 'App' of currency declaration for international travelers

Commerce Reporter

ISLAMABAD: The Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) on Thursday launched a mobile application named Pass Track with regard to the currency declaration for international travelers.

"The mobile App 'Pass Track' has been modified to facilitate passengers to declare currency while traveling to and from Pakistan even before coming to airport, Member Custom Mukarram Jah Ansari told media here after the launch of App.

He said the testing of the App has been completed and many new features have been incorporated so that passengers can easily fill in all the required information.

It may be recalled that the State Bank of Pakistan issued notification last month to

revise the cash carrying limits for outbound passengers. Accordingly, the FBR has notified the revised cash carrying limits.

About the limits for passengers traveling abroad except Afghanistan, Mukarram Jah said according to the revised notification, the maximum limit per person per visit has been reduced to \$5000 and the annual limit has also been set at \$30,000.

Similarly for people below 18 years of age, the maximum cash limit for a person has been set at \$2500 per visit while the annual limit has also been revised down to \$15000.

For those traveling to Afghanistan, the maximum limit for carrying cash in foreign currency is \$1000 per person per visit, while the maximum limit per year is \$6000.

Ansari said any incoming passengers when in possession of foreign currency exceeding US\$10,000 or equivalent is also required to file declaration. Moreover, Pakistani currency can be taken out with a maximum limit of Rs 10,000.

Moreover, he said SBP has also made it mandatory for every person carrying foreign currency to file a declaration with Customs. In order to make it convenient for international passengers, Pakistan Customs has obtained help from National Technology Board (NTTB) to develop a web-based mobile App to electronically file the declaration.

Giving details of the App's features, he said it is available on App store and Play store for downloading. The Web version of the App is also available.

SC Suspends VC, Registrar of Bahauddin Zakariya University

City Reporter

ISLAMABAD: The Supreme Court (SC) has suspended the vice chancellor (VC) and registrar of the Bahauddin Zakariya University (BZU) in a case related to fake admissions in the LLL programme.

The Supreme Court heard the case related to fake admissions in the LLL programme in law colleges affiliated with the Bahauddin Zakariya University (BZU).

The vice chancellor (VC) and the registrar of the varsity were suspended by the apex court. Justice Ijazul Ahsan ordered the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) to submit a detailed probe report into the fake LLL admissions case.

The students apprised the SC judge that examinations of the final batch of the three-year LLL programme are not being conducted at the varsity.

Justice Ahsan remarked that the court will look into matter related to the students after the submission of the FIA's probe report.

National Islamic Economic Forum Conference-2023

Spokesman Report

KARACHI: Federal Finance Minister, Ishaq Dar, has assured the fullest support of the present government in efforts to make the banking system of Pakistan interest-free and transform it according to Islamic principles in five years' time as per the deadline for the purpose given by the Federal Shariat Court.

The Finance Minister held out the assurance to this effect while addressing as the chief guest via video link at the National Islamic Economic Forum Conference-2023 (NIEFC) jointly organised by Saylani Welfare International Trust (SWIT) and Darul Uloom Memon here at a hotel on Thursday.

Dar told an audience at the conference that the cause of implementing Islamic principles in the banking sector was very close to his heart as he sincerely wished that banking systems became interest-free in Pakistan. "As a sincere follower of the teachings of Islam it is my earnest desire to get rid of the inter-



est-based financial system in our country," said the Finance Minister.

He said that in his previous tenure as the Finance minister he had introduced a number of initiatives to speed up the process of adoption of Islamic principles by the banking system.

Dar said that a steering committee had been formed with all the relevant stakeholders and he being its patron to work on the cause of transforming the banking system as per the Shariah principles.

He welcomed the announcement of SWIT Chairman, Moulana Muham-

mad Bashir Farooqi, to partner with like-minded charities to approach concerned philanthropists within and outside the country for raising at least US \$ two billion for the State Bank of Pakistan to facilitate the importers who have been facing serious hardships due to fast depleting foreign exchange reserves.

Moulana Farooqi told the audience that he had planned to team up with top charities in Pakistan including Akhuwat, Citizens Foundation, and Indus Hospital to raise funds from concerned donors in Pakistan to facilitate the traders in the country who have been gravely suffering

due to suspension of imports.

He said that the adoption of an interest-free banking system would be highly beneficial to achieve this cause.

Noted religious scholar, Mufti Muneeb-ur-Rehman, said that apart from getting rid of the interest-based banking system the tax mechanism should also be reformed to end the exploitation of the poor people and labourers.

Ashfaq Tola, State Minister for Reforms and Resource Mobilization Commission, said the present government was fully serious to wage Jihad against the interest-based financial and banking system in the country to end the exploitation of the countrymen.

State Bank of Pakistan Executive Director Syed Samar Hasnain held out the firm assurance on behalf of the SBP to implement an interest-free banking system in Pakistan as per the directives of the Shariat Court.

He said that Pakistan required a large number of trained banking professionals to make all banks Shariah-compliant.

NTU arranges the Int'l conference for long term gains in textile exports

Mian Rashid Asghar

FAISALABAD: Arrangements have been completed for holding an international conference at National Textile University Faisalabad.

According to sources, the Knowledge Based Textile Conference will be held on 14th and 15th of February 2023 and this conference will provide an opportunity to discuss and accelerate the research achievements.

This is the second conference in the Knowledge Based Conference series being hosted by the School of Engineering and Technology, National Textile University, under the Grand Challenge Fund Project (NATEX).

The main objective of this conference is to review the status of value addition in textiles and prepare a scientific plan for long-term gains in textile exports. It will support in the momentum of qualitative and quantitative analysis of textile needs and future necessities on national and international markets.

It was also informed by the university sources that, In collaboration with domestic and foreign institutions and universities, the researchers will get the best support in modern thinking, expertise and research methodologies in this conference, which will make this conference an interesting event.

This year's conference includes developing a scientific plan for innovation in textiles, circularity, advanced textiles, economy and long-term benefits of textile exports.

Pakistan in coming years would show the extraordinary results regarding textile needs all over the World.

Mobile Companies are providing expensive packages to users: Bazal Naqvi

Abdul Majeed Tahir

MUZAFFARABAD: Member of Azad Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly and former Information Minister of Azad Kashmir Syed Bazal Ali Naqvi has criticized the poor call service and internet provided by telecommunication companies Zong, Telenor, Ufone, and Jaz in Azad Kashmir in general and especially in Muzaffarabad. Expressing deep grief over the service, an attention notice has been submitted to the Azad Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly against the concerned communication companies. Companies are providing call service and internet package at expensive prices to the users, but they are providing unnecessary interruptions and very poor service contrary to the contract. 2G service is being provided by charging money for 4G from consumers. He has demanded proper legislation and reform of the situation from the House.



Public circles have strongly supported this initiative of the former Information Minister and member of the Legislative Assembly and demanded direct action from the Azad Kashmir government. Social and political circles have also demanded from the Azad Kashmir government to provide better internet service in Azad Kashmir. For effective control of communication companies, regulatory authority should be established which can resolve the issues of communication companies.

Effective awareness sessions on cervical cancer urged

ISLAMABAD: Parliamentary Secretary for the Ministry of National Health Services, Dr. Shazia Aslam Soomro on Thursday said that health institutions and hospitals should start effective awareness campaigns on cervical cancer to educate people about the disease and its treatment aspects.

Addressing the closing ceremony of Maroof International Hospital's (MIH) cervical awareness campaign, she said the government will continue playing its role in educating people about the disease and ensuring treatment services at public hospitals.

She said the role of the private sector is crucial and urged them to initiate such drives in collaboration with the government to get set targets. She applauded the awareness campaigns launched by Maroof Int'l Hospital throughout the month of January and appreciated the spotlight has been put on a lesser-known and rarely talked about disease. APP

Passing out parade

KARACHI: Police cadets march during the 115th passing out parade at Police Training College Shahid Hayat Saeebad in Provincial Capital.

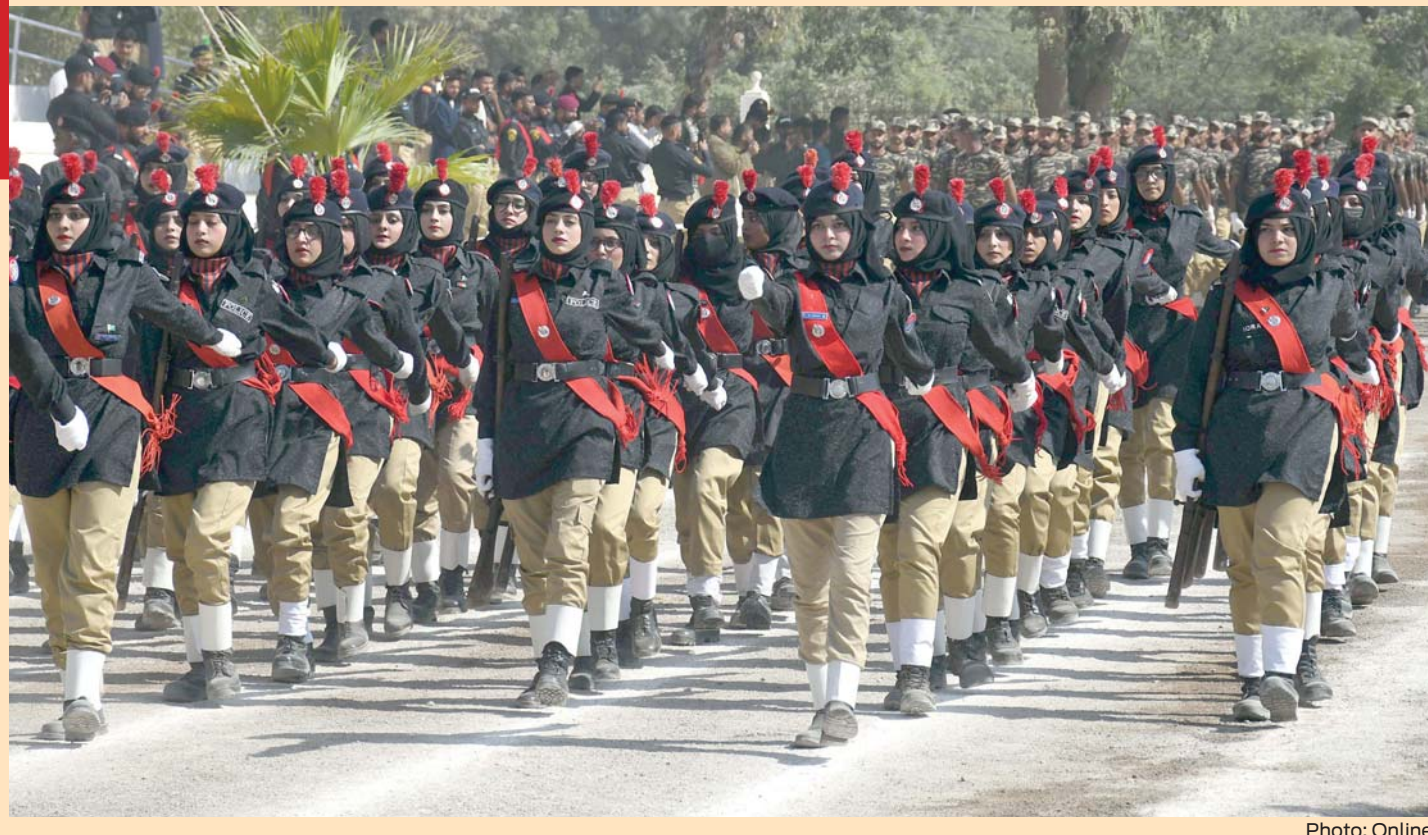


Photo: Online

Adviser and Coordinator for CM Balochistan calls on PRCS Chairman

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Adviser and Coordinator for Chief Minister Balochistan Musa Jan Achakzai called on Pakistan Red Crescent Society Chairman Sardar Shahid Ahmed Laghari at PRCS National Headquarters here on Wednesday and conveyed good wishes to him on behalf of CM Balochistan Abdul Qudus Bizenjo.

In a meeting, Musa Jan Achakzai appreciated the role and services of Red Crescent in dealing with climate change and natural calamities. He lauded PRCS services and humanitarian assistance in mitigating the sufferings of vulnerable and distressed families during flood response 2022.

On behalf of the CM Balochistan, he congratulated the leadership of the Red Crescent for taking the lead in serving the suffering humanity and also hinted that in the coming days the Red Crescent will also help in the rehabilitation of the victims and the reconstruction of the infrastructure. He said PRCS under the leadership of Sardar



Shahid Ahmed Laghari has been engaged in serving the vulnerable communities and this is the real worship. Speaking on this occasion, Sardar Shahid Ahmed Laghari said that all the branches are arms of National Headquarter and he has been visiting all the provinces and meeting with PHQ

leadership to bring harmony among the branches. He requested the support of Balochistan government to strengthen PRCS programs and interventions in the province.

He said that Red Crescent would expand the scope of its welfare projects in Balochistan with the support of its Movement Partners and stakeholders.

On this occasion, Sardar Shahid Ahmed Laghari accepted the invitation of Chief Minister Balochistan to visit Balochistan province, expressed his profound gratitude for the trust, and said that PRCS would continue its services until the recovery of every affected person.

In the end, Sardar Shahid Ahmed Laghari presented commemorative shield to Musa Jan Achakzai.

realme will launch its first Coca-Cola® Edition Smartphone



News Desk

LAHORE: The world's fastest growing smartphone brand, realme, announced its collaboration with Coca-Cola® and introduced its first Coca-Cola edition smartphone, the realme 10 Pro 5G Coca-Cola Edition, which will be launched on February 10th, 2023.

This customized edition of the smartphone features Coca-Cola's classic design elements with a Red&Black collision. The 70/30 asymmetrical back design highlights the Coca-Cola logo with three points of black and seven points of red, making the classic logo instantly recognizable. Coke® red gives a positive, youthful, and energetic feeling. With a bold twist to a classic logo, the cropped Coca-Cola logo brings a new energy to the smartphone experience. The matte imitation metal process provides the elegant touch of brushed aluminum while remaining resistant to scratches and fingerprints.

In terms of configuration, realme 10 Pro 5G Coca-Cola Edition features the segment-leading Snapdragon 695 5G processor, a 5000mAh massive battery, and realme UI 4.0 out of the box. Moreover, it also provides 8GB+8GB dynamic RAM and up to 1TB of external memory, so consumers can hold on to more memories.

realme 10 Pro 5G Coca-Cola Edition will start free bookings on realme's official website. With 6,000 limited units to be booked on February 3rd, consumers will gain a customized and unique limited number card. Come and be the special one.

Commissioner determined to smoothen the Industrial sector facilities

Mian Rashid Asghar.

FAISALABAD: The Divisional Commissioner Silwat Saeed presided over the meeting of Faisalabad Industrial Estate Development and Management Company (FIEDMC) and took a briefing on the facilities provided in M-3 Industrial City, Value Addition City and Allama Iqbal Industrial City managed by the company.

The Deputy Commissioner Imran Hamid Sheikh and Additional Commissioner Coordination Tariq Mehmood were also present on this occasion. CEO FIEDMC Muhammad Tanveer Jabbar, Deputy General Manager Zubair Aziz and other officers of FIEDMC participated.

The Divisional Commissioner, while reviewing the allotment of plots in Special Economic Zones and the security provided to foreign investors said that the provision of roads, electricity, sewage, water supply and other basic facilities should be ensured according to the requirements. She appreciated the steps taken to establish FIEDMC Expocum-Business, FIEDMIC Healthcare City, FIEDMC Industrial Knowledge Park and FIEDMC IT Park and further said that, it is on priority to make Special Economic Zones ideal in terms of development for which all available resources will be used. The Divisional Commissioner, while reviewing some of the problems

being faced in the industrial zones, said that along with fool-proof security, other issues including transfer of land will be resolved on priority basis.

Meanwhile, the Divisional Commissioner Silwat Saeed presided over the briefing meeting of Divisional Public School and College. Additional Commissioner Revenue Tariq Khan Niazi and Principal Shahid Mehmood informed about the teaching and administrative matters. The meeting was informed that 6 institutions of DPS are functional in the division in which 4951 students are studying, 435 teaching and 554 non-teaching staff are also performing their duties. They informed about the details of curricular and

co-curricular activities, board results, financial affairs, available facilities, organization of sports competitions and other details. The Divisional Commissioner appreciated the efforts of the Divisional Public School & College for providing quality and purposeful education and said that character building according to the modern requirements of the students is indispensable.

She praised the overall performance of the school and said that the security measures in the schools should be further improved while need to train the teachers, keep the financial affairs transparent, maintain high order and maintain the best cleanliness environment at all time.

A delegation of Waziristan Chamber met Custom Collector KP



Adam Khan Wazir

WANA: Pak-Afghan Border Angoor ada Custom authorities and the government should work together to promote trade and business activities in the area.

Lower South Waziristan is a region where people have faced extreme hardships due to war for the past several decades.

and the patriotism of the people here has not changed even a bit and by being on the defense line, they have stood side by side with the army and security forces and are still standing.

Some elements are trying to stop the commercial activities at the Angoor Ada border so that the trade with Afghanistan is shifted to other border points, If the commercial activities at Angorad Gate are stagnant, there is a danger of weakening the power of the people here, which will deprive them of the fruits of relief and the war on terror.

The local business community and political leaders of Wana said that propaganda is being done against the ongoing commercial activities

on Angoor ada which are harming the interests of the people here.

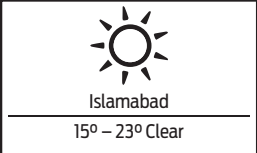
The government should not listen to the words of the elements who sabotage commercial activities and work on a formula to provide facilities and relief to the people in increasing commercial activities.

In this regard, a delegation led by the President of Waziristan Chamber of Commerce Muqarab Khan Wazir and Taj Wazir had a meeting with Custom Collector Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Ashfaq.

In the meeting, bilateral trade with Afghanistan on the Pak-Afghan border Angoor adda, poor condition of roads and other important business issues were discussed.

Custom Collector Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Ashfaq assured to solve all the problems on priority basis.

On which the President of Waziristan Chamber of Commerce and Industry Moqarab Khan invited him to come to Pak-Afghan border Angoor adda and thanked him.



SERVICES

Namaz Timings

Fajr 5:39 am
Zohr 12:21 pm
Asr 4:01 pm
Maghrib 5:39 pm
Isha 7:05 pm

EMERGENCY

Rescue (Police) 15
Bomb Disposal 15
Fire Services Rawalpindi/ Islamabad 1122 & 16
Emergency Ambulance 1122 & 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 Enquiry 117
Railway Exchange 9270831-5
WASA Rawalpindi 5555489
CAA 9281092

HOSPITALS

CMH 561111
MH 561116
MH 561116
Cantt Hospital 9270907-11
DHQ 5556311-4
RGH 9290301-7
Holy Family 9290322-7
PIMS 9261170-79
Polyclinic 9218300-09
Shifa International 4603666

DEPARTMENTS

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

COMPLAINTS

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

Amir Muqam for using digital platforms to promote Urdu and book reading culture

ISLAMABAD: Adviser to Prime Minister for Political, Public Affairs, National Heritage and Culture, Engineer Amir Muqam Thursday called for using digital platforms for the promotion of Urdu language and book reading culture in the country.

Addressing the one-day International Urdu Journalism Conference titled "Seventy-Five Years of Urdu Journalism" organized by National Language Promotion Department (NLPD), Amir Muqam said that the present government is committed to promoting Urdu language and taking all possible measures for the promotion of Urdu at all level. The advisor termed Urdu a symbol of national unity and urged that we as Pakistanis should be proud of speaking Urdu.

Lauding the role of media and Journalists in the country, Amir Muqam said that media has an important role in creating awareness among the masses about issues and promoting the national narrative against terrorism. He said that we salute the journalists who speak the truth and gave sacrifices for the country.

Success would be when women exit the programme and become self-reliant: Faisal Kundi

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: Human Resource Development Network (HRDN) and Oxfam in Pakistan collaborated under the Global Affairs Canada funded project Women's Voice & Leadership - Pakistan (WVL-P) to organize a Knowledge sharing symposium in Islamabad today. The symposium titled "Promoting Shared Knowledge for Continued Actions to Support Gender Justice and Equality" launched 09 knowledge products which were carried out by academia and local organizations

including Lahore University of Management Sciences, Fatima Jinnah Women University, Potohar Mental Health Emergency, Punjab University, Forman Christian College, NOW Communities and Uks Research Center.

The symposium was inaugurated by Mr. Faisal Karim Kundi, Special Assistant to the Prime Minister (SAPM) on Poverty Alleviation and Social Safety. During his address Mr. Kundi appreciated the work of HRDN and Oxfam in promoting gender justice, equality and their overall struggle for social and economic protection of women and girls. He talked

about the Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP) that has a total of 8.7 million beneficiaries, all of whom are women from poor households. "For us, a success would be when women exit the programme and become self-reliant", said Mr. Kundi while also discussing the ways in which the BISP team is trying to innovate and streamline the cash distribution system.

He also talked about using technology to make the process of cash transfers smooth and transparent. He opened the floor for suggestions and feedback on how the BISP team can continue



to improve their systems. He also discussed how BISP was able to support the Government of Pakistan in distributing funds to flood affected women. Mr. Kundi expressed hope

that the work of alliances under HRDN and Oxfam can continue in uplifting women out of economic hardship by strengthening skills, supporting income generating grants and social

safety programs.

The knowledge products launched during the event are part of the issue-based research grants initiative integrated under the Women's Voice & Leadership-Pakistan project. One of the key project interventions is to strengthen the existing body of knowledge and creating new knowledge around women rights in both urban and rural context, thereby building a legacy of knowledge enabling proactive decision making to advance gender equality. The project also aspires to cultivate thoughts and actions using

the sound knowledge base produced connecting traditional knowledge, technology advancement and evolving opportunities in the post-pandemic world.

The event provided an excellent opportunity for HRDN members, community practitioners, women / human right experts, academia as well as policy makers to come together and establish shared learning and knowledge on existing gaps in women related laws and policies in a changing world and contribute to formulate suggestions and transform our collective actions as a way forward.

Baitulmal Dastarkhwan

ISLAMABAD: A view of deserving people are eating free food in Baitulmal Dastarkhwan at sector G-9 in Federal Capital.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

Iqra University organized a project display of environmental studies.



Spokesman Report

KARACHI: The importance of environmental awareness cannot be overstated, and education plays a crucial role in promoting it. Director Academics Dr. Syed Ali Raza holds a positive view on the matter and believes that student projects in environmental studies can be a powerful tool in promoting environmental awareness. In particular, he is amazed by the 54 incredible projects that students have completed in this field.

According to Dr. Ali, students are future leaders and decision-makers, and it is essential to educate them about environmental issues at an early age. By encouraging students to participate in environmental projects, they can develop a deep appreciation for the environment and a sense of responsibility toward sustainability. The hands-on and practical learning experience provided by these projects is truly valuable as students can engage with real-world environmental issues and find creative solutions to address them.

He also believes that this display can have a profound and positive impact on the wider community. These projects serve as a visual representation of the positive impact that individuals can have on their local environment and can inspire others to get involved and make a difference. By creating a community of individuals who are dedicated to preserving the environment, these projects can raise awareness and encourage more people to take action. He said that teachers provide good education to students through hard work and dedication, due to which they become future leaders and decision-makers. Encouraging students to participate in environmental projects can instill a sense of responsibility for sustainability. In conclusion, promoting environmental awareness through student projects in environmental studies is a valuable and positive way to educate students about environmental issues and encourage them to take action.

TMUC holds Annual Colloquia 2023



News Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Millennium Universal Colleges TMUC, Pakistan hosted two days Annual Colloquia 2023 on the theme 'Inspire-Aspire-Attain: Redefining Quality Education' at TMUC Islamabad says a press release.

Heads of Institutes, Academic Heads, Programme Coordinators, Counsellors, and support staff from all over the TMUC campuses nationwide attended this 7th Annual Colloquia. TMUC is Pakistan's top International University, provides innovative undergraduate, postgraduate, and professional education as a pioneer of Transnational Education. TMUC holds the Colloquia every year with focus on promoting Quality Education (SDG 4), and ensuring inclusive and equitable quality education, promoting lifelong learning opportunities for all.

The Higher Education sector in Pakistan, continues to set new standards having braved the combined pressures of the pandemic and global inflation. Dr. Faisal Mushtaq TI, Founder and CEO of The Millennium Education Group, vision reminds all the stakeholders that our first responsibility is to our students. Through open access to quality education and a holistic campus life, TMUC leads from the front, to inspire our students, so that they may aspire for greater success, and attain good outcomes at graduate and post-graduate levels. This year, the 7th Annual Colloquia brought over a 100 TNE professionals to conglomerate to share best practices and put in place action plans that will assure TMUC students and the wider community of our commitment to quality and academic standards.

Addressing the delegates, Ms. Rabbea Irfan Director TMUC, talked about TMUC as a TNE Case study and TMUC as a Leaders of Transnational Education in Pakistan and discussed Higher Education Commission expectations and compliance. Ms. Amna Salik, Director Quality Assurance & Academic Compliance, discussed TMUC's programme development and growth working in synergy with other departments and support services. Her session focused on promoting academic excellence for all, recognizing the fact that quality and equality are mutually reinforcing.

Inaugurated Solar Powered Water Filtration System

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: As part of their ongoing flood relief efforts, Indus Earth Trust [IET] and Coca-Cola Pakistan inaugurated a solar-powered water filtration system at Ali Muhammad Jokhiyo village in Thatta and donated water containers with wheels to the women in the community making access and transportation of clean drinking water easier for the people of Thatta.

Fahad Ashraf, Vice-President of Coca-Cola Pakistan, and the community leaders of Ali Muhammad Jokhiyo village inaugurated the innovative water filtration system and distributed water containers to the women in the community. Coca-Cola employees and representatives from Bond E Shams and Tayyaba Organisation were also present at the occasion and shared a meal with the people of the community.

This project is a continuation of Indus Earth Trust and Coca-Cola's efforts to provide over 1000 flood affected households with food, shelter, WASH (Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene) facilities, access to clean drinking water, and hygiene kits.

"The impact of the floods will continue to be felt for a long time to come. As partners of Pakistan, we at Coca-Cola have been working with the government and non-profit organizations to provide



immediate relief and support access to safe drinking water and sanitation for vulnerable communities," said Fahad Ashraf, Vice-President of Coca-Cola Pakistan.

Shahid Sayeed Khan, Founder, and CEO of Indus Earth Trust spoke at the inauguration about the fundamental human right to access clean drinking water. "This solar-powered filtration system enabled by the team at Coca-Cola Pakistan and innovated by Bondh E Shams will make a significant difference in the lives of the people of this community and the surrounding communities as it filters over 10,000 litres

of water daily. Such partnerships reflect IET's motto of "Development with Dignity", through which it has been serving the people of Sindh and Baluchistan for over 20 years."

Last year, The Coca-Cola Foundation, the global philanthropic arm of The Coca-Cola Company, provided a grant of USD 250,000 to CARE International which supported immediate relief efforts with essential supplies. Through the National Disaster Authority (NDMA), Coca-Cola İçecek Pakistan also provided 120,000 litres of clean drinking water.

Special (5th) NIMA Advisory Board Meeting

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The 5th (Special) Advisory Board Meeting of National Institute of Maritime Affairs (NIMA) was held on 2 February 2023 at Bahria University, Islamabad & Karachi. Meeting was convened in the honour of former Director General Vice Admiral (Retd) Abdul Aleem HI(M), who had been at the helms of NIMA's affairs for three years from 1st of November 2019 to 1st of November 2022. Former CNS Admiral Mohammad Asif Sandila NI(M), Chairman NIMA Advisory Board chaired the meeting and mentioned that NIMA has now become a vibrant organization for which Admiral Aleem worked hard. The incumbent Director General NIMA Vice Admiral (Retd) Ahmed Saeed HI(M) said that Admiral Aleem is a source of inspiration for all of us and we will continue to work with the same spirit to achieve the



vision and mission of NIMA. Admiral Aleem thanked all and said that recognition of NIMA is important to influence the policies and processes related to National Maritime Affairs.

Earlier, Cdre (Retd) Bilal Abdul Nasir SI(M) highlighted that during his illustrious career as Director General, Admiral Aleem made remarkable contributions and unparalleled

achievements to his credit in promoting the maritime interests of Pakistan. Vice Admiral (Retd) Asaf Humayun appreciated that NIMA is now a well-established think tank, and its researchers are producing world class research. Mr. Jawed Iqbal commended the contribution of Admiral Aleem and NIMA for safeguarding the Ship Recycling Industry.

Air Marshal (Retd) Farhat Abbas HI(M), Rear Admiral (Retd) Farrokh Ahmad HI(M), Commandant PN War College Rear Admiral Javed Iqbal HI(M), Additional Secretary-III Ministry of Defence Rear Admiral Faisal Amin HI(M), Rear Admiral Faisal Shah HI(M), Dr. Anjum Sarfraz, President IRS Ambassador Nadeem Riyaz, Dr. Masuma Hassan, Mr. Moazzam Khan and DG NIO Dr. Samina Kidwai also spoke on the occasion and appreciated the contributions of former DG NIMA.

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Local Bodies Elections 2022 in AJK

Chaudhry Muhammad Latif

After a long time, on the repeated orders of Supreme Court of AJK, Local Bodies (LB) Elections 2022 were held in 3 phases, division wise. A strange and special feature of these elections is the emergence of a large number of independent candidates. In Muzaffarabad Division total seats 664, Independent 115, Ruling party 197, PML (N) 127, and Pakistan Peoples Party 194. While in Poonch Division total seats 779, Independent seats 255, Ruling party 229, PML (N) 116, PPP 113. Similarly in Mirpur Division total seats 1075, Independent 315, Ruling party 373, PML (N) 231 and PPP 140.

Before going to causes of this change, it may be pointed out that the composition of the civil society and texture of civil services in AJK are both distinctly different from that prevalent in Pakistan. The social norms in AJK are healthy, humble, and human, thus are admirable. The political leaders here do differ in their manifestoes but they never desire to destroy their adversaries. In civil services

there is a powerful element of lent officers on deputation from Pakistan. They are suppose to safeguard the supreme interests of Pakistan in this small but sensitive area. They occupy the posts of Chief Secretary, Finance Secretary, Inspector General of Police and Accountant General as per Karachi Agreement. They are legally empowered under Rules of Business 1985. The learned Chief Secretary is the head of services in order to maintain the equilibrium in political field and to ensure justice and fairness to civil servants.

In the early decades of AJK all the political parties were local and they had cordial relations with all political parties in Pakistan. Any political party ruling in AJK was treated alike by any political party ruling in Pakistan.

In the year 1975, PPP made a thrilling entry in AJK politics and formed the government with the first Prime Minister in AJK under the provision of Interim Constitution Act 1974. With this political change other political parties in Pakistan also established their counter parts and thereby ushered in an era of harsh contest and competition inheriting friends foes from Pakistan. Main drawback in this political change, however, was that they

badly failed to guide, supervise and control their counterpart ruling party in AJK and their failure tarnished their image and prestige in AJK.

During several tenures of their rules in AJK the PPP suffered a setback when they appointed a representative from Faisalabad who had been vested with so much powers that he undermined the status and authority of elected government in AJK. He held no constitutional nor legal position in Pakistan nor in AJK. As such his gross intervention in government affairs caused damage to the party. However, with bold struggle the current leadership has rectified and restored the position of PPP in AJK and they seem to turn the table any time.

The second strong political force in AJK was PML (N) for which there was overwhelming political support due to their performance in AJK and Pakistan. In their recent rule of 2013 to 2018 they assigned the task of monitoring AJK affairs to a prominent leader of Pakistan, Raja Muhammad Zafar-ul-Haq. He, violating merit, nominated Raja Muhammad Farooq Haidar Khan from AJK. His unbridled rule has been diplomatically criticized and condemned

by his own Speaker Legislative Assembly, and Senior Minister of his government while participating in Roze News TV programme. They declare the style of governance as one man rule. They levelled allegations of nepotism in services and his repeated violations of the jurisdiction of Public Service Commission as such the civil services and public at large got fed up with his style of government. Consequently, the disgruntled the political personalities preferred to contest elections as independent candidates.

Hence the victory of a large number of independent candidates in LB polls 2022. It appears the outcome of circumstances obtaining in the state. It also seems distrust in political system altogether due to bad governance by political parties in recent past.

On the other hand, the role of lent officer also has all along been deplorable. It is third time that thousands of adhoc appointees are being regularized in service without reference to PSC. The plea for this unconstitutional decision is that adhoc appointees have not been regularly selected by the PSC despite their services exceeding ten years. But this is the fault and failure of PSC which could be directed to expedite the selection process instead

of committing violation of law and judgements of Supreme Court. The PSC should give test only for the posts of AC, ASP, ACF, for which the appointing authority, government has already proscribed the syllabus and for the rest of posts only the interview is enough for which system is available with the PSC.

Another astonishing factor in AJK civil service has been that Adhoc appointees had been promoted to higher grades upto B-22. Although revenue department in AJK has no duty of recovery of revenue as AJK is exempt from this lavy. Despite DMG group has occupied seventeen posts of secretary to Government in violation of service rules. One example is that of Chaudhry Imtiaz Ahmed, Secretary Forest, whose date of birth is 04-04-1975, induction in service in 2005, grant of B-20 4-05-2018, appointment as Secretary 20-10-2020, and his retirement is 3-4-2035. The service rules require five year for B-18, 12 year for B-19 and 17 year for B-20. Other departments are waiting for justice and fairness from lent officers.

The writer is Retired Additional Chief Secretary of AJK and Advocates Supreme Court of AJK.

Police prepared to fight terrorists

Additional Inspector General Police (AIGP) South Punjab Maqsoodul Hassan on Thursday ordered all district police chiefs to step up security arrangements encompassing all important places and routes.

He said that police were fully prepared and on alert to fight terrorists and criminals for peace in society.

During a visit to Dera Ghazi Khan, AIG Police South, accompanying RPO Captain (R) Sajjad Hasan Khan, held a meeting with the district police chiefs including DPO DG Khan Muhammad Akmal, DPO Muzaffargarh Ahmad Nawaz Shah, DPO Kot Adu Tanveer Ahmad Malik, DPO Layyah Muhammad Nasir Sial and directed them to take all measures necessary to deal with the terrorist elements.

The RPO briefed the AIGP South on security arrangements and law and order situation while DPOs apprised him of the sensitive places in their respective districts, police arrangements to deal with terrorists and the overall crime situation, AIGP spokesman said in a statement.

Taking notice of incidents of terrorism, Additional IGP South Punjab ordered tougher security measures at sensitive places, for the security of foreigners, religious places of worship, public places, police and other important government offices and check posts.

He said that additional personnel should be deployed at important and sensitive places, adding that the officers and personnel posted on security should remain alert around the clock.

Maqsood ul Hassan also ordered officers to conduct occasional security checks and mock exercises to deal with any emergency situations. He advised that search, sweeping and combing operations should be conducted on a daily basis along with intelligence and other law enforcement agencies while the inter-provincial and inter-district check posts should ensure strict checking of individuals and vehicles.

All citizens and vehicles be allowed to leave only after identification and clearance at the entry/exit check posts, he ordered.

Addl. IGP south hailed police officers and officials' passion to serve society and added that sacrificing their lives for the cause of peace in society and the safety of people was the pride of police.

He also reviewed the crime situation in all the districts and ordered essential steps to reduce the incidents of theft and robbery.

He added that merit and compassion were the characteristics of an exemplary officer, adding that honesty and diligence in duty performance could establish the dignity of the police and improve the image in public view.

He also warned police employees of action in case of negligence in the performance of duty and abuse of authority.

Afghan women prosecutors who represented democracy now seeking safe haven

Spokesman Research

Pushing her son on a swing at a playground on a sunny winter's day in Madrid, former Afghan prosecutor Obaida Sharar expresses relief that she found asylum in Spain after fleeing Afghanistan shortly after the Taliban took over.

Sharar, who arrived in Madrid with her family, is one of 19 female prosecutors to have found asylum in the country after being left in limbo in Pakistan without official refugee status for up to a year after the Taliban's return to power.

She feels selfish being happy while her fellow women suffer, she said.

"Most Afghan women and girls that remain in Afghanistan don't have the right to study, to have a social life or even go to a beauty salon," Sharar said. "I cannot be happy."

Women's freedoms in her home country were abruptly curtailed in 2021 with the arrival of a government that enforces a strict interpretation of Islam.

The Taliban administration has banned most female aid workers and last year stopped women and girls from attending high school and university.

Sharar's work and that of her female peers while they lived in Afghanistan was

dangerous. Female judges and prosecutors were threatened and became the target of revenge attacks as they undertook work overseeing the trial and conviction of men accused of gender crimes, including rape and murder.

She was part of a group of 32 women judges and prosecutors that left Afghanistan only to be stuck in Pakistan for up to a year trying to find asylum.

A prosecutor, who gave only her initials as S.M. due to fears over her safety and who specialised in gender violence and

president of Bilbao-based 14 Lawyers, a non-governmental organisation which defends prosecuted lawyers, said the women had been held up as symbols of democratic success only to be discarded.

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) said it was not in a position to comment on specific cases.

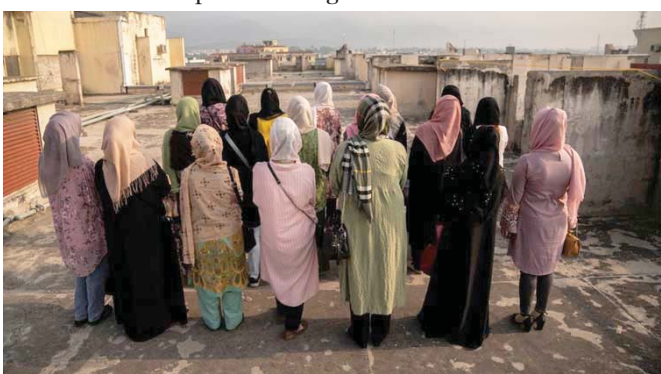
"The Government of Pakistan has not agreed to recognise newly arriving Afghans as refugees," UNHCR said in a statement. "Since 2021, UNHCR has been in discussions with the government on measures and mechanisms to support vulnerable Afghans. Regrettably, no progress has been made."

The foreign ministry of Pakistan did not respond immediately to a request for comment.

Pakistan is home to millions of refugees from Afghanistan who fled after the Soviet Union's invasion in 1979 and during the subsequent civil war. Most of them are yet to return despite Pakistan's push to repatriate them under different programmes.

The Taliban has said any Afghan who fled the country since it took power in 2021 can return safely through a repatriation council.

"Afghanistan is the joint home of all Afghans," said Bilal Karimi, deputy spokesperson for the Taliban administration. "They can live here without any threat."



Ukraine's new weapon will force a Russian shift

Reuters Report

With the United States expected to send a new longer-range weapon to Ukraine, it has answered President Volodymyr Zelenskyy's plea for rockets that can strike deep behind the front lines of the nearly year-long conflict with Russia.

Now Russian forces will need to adapt or face potentially catastrophic losses.

The new weapon, the Ground Launched Small Diameter Bomb (GLSDB), will allow Ukraine's military to hit targets at twice the distance reachable by the rockets it now fires from the U.S.-supplied High Mobility Artillery Rocket System (HIMARS). If included as expected in an upcoming weapons-aid package first reported by Reuters, the 151 km (94 mile) GLSDB will put all of Russia's supply lines in the east of the country within reach, as well as part of Russian-occupied Crimea.

This will force Russia to move its supplies even farther from the front lines, making its soldiers more vulnerable and greatly complicating plans for any new offensive.

"This could slow down [a Russian assault] significantly," said Andriy Zagorodnyuk, Ukraine's former defence minister. "Just as HIMARS significantly influenced the course of events, these rockets could influence the course of events even more."

"We are currently unable to reach Russian military facilities more than 80 kilometres away," said Ukrainian military analyst Oleksandr Musiyenko. "If we can reach them practically all the way to the Russian border, or in occupied Crimea, then of course this will lower the attacking potential of Russian forces."

Crucially, Ukraine will soon be able to reach every point of the occupied overland route to Crimea via Berdiansk and Melitopol. That will force Russia to redirect its supply trucks to the Crimean bridge,

which was badly damaged in an attack in October. "Russia is using Crimea as a big military base from which it sends reinforcements for its troops on the southern front," said Musiyenko. "If we had a 150km (munition), we could reach that and disrupt the logistical connection with Crimea."

Beyond the logistical impact, the addition of a longer-range weapon to Ukraine's arsenal could help shake Russian confidence.

Tom Karako, a weapons and security expert at the Center for Strategic and International Studies said that while Ukraine would benefit from an even longer range weapon, GLSDB is "a really important step to give the Ukrainians longer reach and to keep the Russians guessing."

For the Biden administration, the decision to send GLSDB to Ukraine represents a step toward meeting Ukraine's demand for the 185-mile (297km) range Army Tactical Missile System (ATACMS) missile, which the administration has so far declined to provide, fearing a further escalation of the conflict.

The glide bombs, while not as powerful, are much cheaper, smaller and easier to deploy than ATACMS, making them well suited for much of what Ukraine hopes to accomplish: disrupting Russian operations and creating a tactical advantage.

Still, said Karako, it is possible the Ukrainians could end up receiving an even longer range weapon in the future.

"Time and again, we've seen the administration say that they would go up to a certain point, but not beyond," he said. "Then, as the situation has deteriorated, they've found the necessity to, in fact, go further."

This was the case with HIMARS, the Patriot missile defence system, and, just this month, Abrams tanks, all initially off-limits to Ukraine before the administration ended up approving shipments.

But for now, the focus will be on how quickly the new glide bombs can arrive in Ukraine, said Zagorodnyuk.

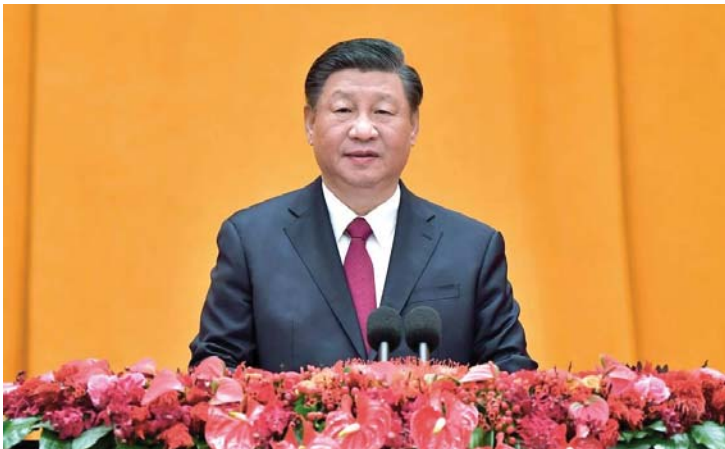
Xi stresses actions to speed up establishment of modern pattern of development

BELJING: Chinese President Xi Jinping has stressed the efforts to accelerate the establishment of a new pattern of development and enhance the security and initiative of development.

Addressing an event related to political study, Xi said that accelerating the establishment of a new pattern of development is a strategic decision to realize the Second Centenary Goal and ensure both development and security, as well as a strategic plan to seize the initiative of future development.

Xi said the new pattern of development should be based on the modern industrial system, and smooth economic operation requires orderly and effective interconnectivity among industries.

Only by accelerating the establishment of a new pattern of development can China consolidate the foundation for its economy and enhance the security and stability of its development, said Xi, who is also general secretary of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee.



Central Committee.

And only by doing so can China enhance its strength to survive, compete, develop and sustain amid all sorts of predictable and unpredictable storms and high winds so as to ensure that the process of the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation will not be delayed or interrupted, he added.

Despite some progress in fostering a new pattern of development, there is still a long way to go before its full establishment, Xi said, calling for adopting a problem-oriented approach and applying systems thinking to tackle major problems, deepen reform, and advance innovation.

Xi stressed fostering an integrat-

ed domestic demand system, with a focus put on expanding consumption desire backed by incomes, the demand of investment with reasonable returns, and demand for financing with principal and debt constraints.

Xi also urged efforts to accelerate building the country's self-reliance and strength in science and technology and boost strategic sci-tech strength, in order to make the country a global pacesetter in key scientific and technological fields.

The country will continue to keep economic development focused on the real economy and take solid steps to advance new industrialization, he added.

Efforts will also be made to support enterprises' full participation in the global industrial division of labor and cooperation, promote deeper integration of domestic and foreign industries, and build a modern industrial system that is independent, controllable, safe, reliable and highly competitive, Xi said. — (Internews Pakistan)

USA should play due role to help resolve Kashmir dispute peacefully President AJK



Abdul Majeed Tahir

MUZAFFARABAD: President Azad Jammu and Kashmir Barrister Sultan Mahmood Chaudhry has said that the USA should play due role to help resolve the lingering Kashmir dispute peacefully in line with the UN security council resolutions.

He expressed these views in a detailed meeting with Senator Chris Van Hollen, here today. According to details received here the AJK President referring to the simmering situation in the held territory the president said that Modi government's 5th August 2019 unilateral move has pushed the region into a quagmire of chaos and uncertainty.

Indian government's illegal and undemocratic actions, he said, had pushed the region to the brink of war.

"Though Pakistan had made several attempts during the recent past to defuse tension in the region and bring India to the negotiation table but Modi government that is pursuing the policy of Hindutva has been reluctant to resume dialogue with Pakistan", the president said adding that it was high time that the Biden administration should use its influence to resume dialogue between Pakistan and India.

Stressing the need for an inclusive dialogue, Barrister Chaudhry said that these negotiations should be tripartite in nature. He said that Kashmiris being a fundamental party to the dispute should be included in the talks process to find out a just and durable solution to the Kashmir dispute.

While seeking an early and amicable settlement of the lingering dispute, he said that the former American President Bill Clinton had also termed Kashmir as the most dangerous conflict in the world.

While briefing senator Hollen about the latest situation in Occupied Kashmir, the president said that the Kashmiri people were going through a difficult situation.

"The international community, especially the United States and the US Senate, should play their role in resolving the Kashmir issue and stopping the ongoing human rights violations in Occupied Kashmir", he said.

Later, Barrister Sultan Mahmood Chaudhry, while speaking as a special guest at an event said that the dire situation in the Indian occupied Kashmir demands that Kashmiris and Pakistanis living in America should play their role to solve the Kashmir problem and stop Indian atrocities in Occupied Kashmir.

Visit of Youth Parliament Delegation to ISSI



Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: China-Pakistan Study Centre (CPSC) at the Institute of Strategic Studies, Islamabad hosted a delegation of Youth Parliament to discuss, 'Global and Regional Dynamics of Pakistan's Foreign Policy'. The interactive session was addressed by Ambassador Sohail Mahmood, Director General, ISSI. The delegation of the Youth Parliament was led by Mr. Rizwan Jaffar. Dr. Talat Shabir, Director CPSC in his introductory remarks welcomed the guests and briefed the guests about ISSI.

Extending a warm welcome to the Youth Parliament members, Ambassador Sohail Mahmood highlighted the global and regional dynamics of Pakistan's foreign policy amidst a rapidly changing global environment. He noted that the hallmark of the current international environment was its complete flux and fluidity. States, driven by their own interests, had the challenge to constantly evaluate the environment and adjust accordingly. He highlighted some key determinants of states' foreign policy — including geography, identity, history, resource endowment, leadership, economic imperatives, over-arching strategic concepts, and role of national institutions. He also stressed the vital linkage between states' internal strength and their external influence.

Ambassador Mahmood stressed that Pakistan's foreign policy was driven by the strategic concept of a 'peaceful neighborhood', the commitment to have good relations with all major powers, and cooperative multi-lateralism. The most recent shift in the country's approach was from geo-strategic to geo-economics.

Sohail Mahmood also highlighted Pakistan's role on cross-cutting global issues such as COVID-19, climate change, Islamophobia, and UN Security Council reforms.

Mr. Rizwan Jaffar also presented how Youth Parliament has evolved into a national-level organization that has global outreach. He highlighted that the organization aims to empower youth which is the most valuable asset of this country.

Towards the end of the event a Q&A session was held in which participants asked very pertinent questions. In the last Chairman BoG Ambassador Khalid Mahmood delivered his concluding remarks which were followed by a presentation of memento to the visiting delegation of Youth Parliament.

Snow on Mountains

GILGIT: An eye-catching landscape of Nalter Valley covered by snow as Mountains in the background are also covered with snow. APP



UNHCR Pakistan launches one-off cash assistance scheme for 1.3 million Afghan refugees

Raja Furqan Ahmed

ISLAMABAD: UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency, today launched a one-time cash assistance scheme for some 1.3 million Afghan refugees in Pakistan affected by devastating 2022 floods as well as the prevailing economic situation. The assistance is being provided, in collaboration with the Government of Pakistan, to reach refugees who are not eligible to access social safety nets available to Pakistani citizens.

The initiative is modelled on the Government's emergency cash programme for vulnerable Pakistani families affected by floods. Registered Afghan refugees will receive up to PKR 25,000, adjusted depending on the family size. The Minister for State and Frontier Regions (SAFRON), Muhammad

Talha Mahmood, and Habib Bank Limited's Chief Representative, Mr. Mohammad Ali Syed launched the scheme on Thursday with UNHCR's Regional Director for Asia and the Pacific, Mr. Indrika Ratwatte.

Representatives from different donor countries also attended the event. "We are honoured to work together with our long-standing partner, the Government of Pakistan, through its SAFRON Ministry, as well as Habib Bank Limited — for the first time — to support Afghans affected by the devastating floods and who remain in difficult economic circumstances. This support comes in addition to UNHCR's emergency flood response for Afghan refugees and affected Pakistani host communities," said Mr. Ratwatte. He added "the partnership is

UNHCR's first private sector engagement with the country's banking system and is a great example of the commitment of the Government and private sector in the country to find innovative approaches to support vulnerable Afghans. I hope this partnership is something we can build on further, including in the lead up to the Global Refugee Forum later this year."

UNHCR continues working with Pakistan as it recovers from the aftermath of last year's devastating floods, with a special focus on areas hosting refugees. Some 800,000 refugees live in areas that were impacted by the devastating monsoon. Muhammad Talha Mahmood, the Minister of SAFRON, welcomed ongoing international support for Afghan refugees and host communities in Pakistan. "We have generously supported

Afghan refugees in our country for over four decades. Even as we face our own challenges, we remain committed to our promise to help. But we cannot do it alone and call for additional international support at this time in line with the global commitments to share responsibility for refugees made under the UN Refugee Compact."

Habib Bank Limited's Chief Representative, Mr. Mohammad Ali Syed welcomed the opportunity to team up with UNHCR and the Government of Pakistan to deliver cash assistance. "Our bank is committed to high standards of delivery and accountability. We are proud to do our part and to demonstrate how our advanced banking system can efficiently deliver this important humanitarian cash assistance to refugees in Pakistan.

President JCCI Congratulates MD SLS Sarfaraz Malik on Excellent result of IELTS



News Desk

JHELUM: Chief Guest President Jhelum Chamber of Commerce and Industry Malik Khawar Shehzad congratulated Managing Director SLS College Sarfaraz Malik and staff on 160 times 100% result in UK Marriage English A1 test and 8.5 bands in IELTS by SLS student. The name of Jhelum is becoming more popular in the world due to the SLS. SLS College has been sending students around the world for thirty-three (23) years as professionals. He further said that if there are no institutes like SLS, it will be impossible to pass the IELTS test.

According to the details, a certificate distribution ceremony was held at SLS College, in which President Jhelum Chamber of Commerce and Industry Malik Khawar participated as a chief guest. President Jhelum Chamber of Commerce and Industry Malik Khawar, Senior Vice President Mazhar Ikram, Vice President Hafiz Ghulam, Mustafa and Chairman UV Group Raja Sajjad Akhtar were welcomed by showering them with flower petals.

The event started with SLS student Usama welcoming the guests, Vice President JCCI Hafiz Ghulam Mustafa filled the hearts of the participants with the recitation of the Holy Quran, Naat was presented by SLS student Namira, after the National Anthem, Managing Director SLS College and Chairman Incredible Jhelum JCCI Sarfaraz Malik thanked the guests in his welcome address, congratulated the successful students, told the participants about the history and achievements of the institution.

Special Guest Chairman UV Group JCCI Raja Sajjad Akhtar said that our youth are not less than anyone, just respect the teachers and make the name of the country and the nation bright with hard work and dedication. Vice President JCCI Hafiz Ghulam Mustafa in his address, emphasized good morals.

3rd Meeting NSTP SEZ held

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: During the current desperate economic period, the National Science and Technology Park (NSTP) SEZ Committee in its 3rd Meeting held on 31st January 2023, approved the entry applications of three (3) new enterprises, having considerable FDI, indicating the confidence of the foreign investor in Pakistani Tech startups.

The 3rd Committee meeting was chaired by AVM (Retd.) Dr. Rizwan Riaz, Pro-Rector (RIC) NUST and VP NSTP, with officials from federal and district administration in attendance.

Manager SEZ, Lt. Col. (Retd) Shakeel Ahmad Shah attended the meeting on behalf of the Board of Investment.

After the launch of NSTP, Islamabad, as a Special Economic Zone (SEZ), its colonization began with the entry of R&D-based enterprises both local and foreign with 25x companies already being awarded the Zone Enterprise Status in the committee's first two meetings in the year 2022.

The applicants include M/s AlfaBolt a fintech company with product Nomad an easy payment platform and AlfaBolt Analytics which helps businesses identify actions that drive user value,

M/s OrbitEd (Cygnus Creative Software Pvt Ltd) an ED Tech company developing an eLearning platform for Virtual Reality (VR) for training apps for enterprise business and Augmented Reality for STEM education and, M/s PriceOye an e-commerce company developing marketplace for consumer electronics.

PriceOye has recently raised seed funding from scores of investors, including PayPal founder Peter Thiel. The start-up closed a \$7.9M seed fund and was backed by BeeNext, DG Daiwa, Mantis VC, HOF Capital, Palm Drive Capital, and Atlas Ventures, in addition to previous investors Fatima Gobi Ventures,

SOSV, and Artistic Ventures.

Orbit-Ed, a female-led ed-tech startup raised a \$500,000 investment from Silicon Valley investor, Boost VC, bringing their total pre-seed funding to \$800,000.

All in all, these companies will be bringing in foreign investment of 8.5 million USD for the production of their respective products/solutions. 100+ Quality direct and indirect jobs have been created by these companies.

The applications for zone enterprise entry and allotment of land/offices were processed via SEZ's One Window Operation designed by the Federal Board of Investment for the facilitation of

investments in the country and to ensure ease of doing business. Along with the allotment of land/offices, these enterprises are now entitled to SEZ's benefits, including customs duties and tax exemption under the SEZ Act, 2012.

Award of the status will give import duty and income tax exemptions to these enterprises which will catalyze their transformation into a national and regional success, which in turn will uplift the socioeconomic environment for the masses by way of rapid production of disruptive technologies and will help improve the nation's Global Innovation Index standing.

The National Science Technology Park is a project established by the National University of Science and Technology (NUST), that was awarded the SEZ status in the 6th meeting of the Board of Approvals, held on 7th October 2020, under the chair of the prime minister. The project is located inside the existing NUST Campus at H-12, Islamabad.

The SEZ aims to catalyze economic activity in the country and develop a knowledge-based multiindustry cluster including segments of the IT and telecommunications, engineering, biotech/biopharma, banking/financial services, defense tech-

nologies, power, and automotive industries.

The synergies will yield technology enhancement, development of efficient systems, and resolve the issues of the industry through research and development and production of goods and services compatible globally and beneficial to the national economy.

The members of the SEZ committee while appreciating the uniqueness of the NSTP, unanimously resolved that the propagation of the hi-tech industry through R&D is the need of the hour to bring the industrial base of Pakistan at par with the countries in the region.

Bull & Bears
PSX 100-Share
Index Fluctuation

Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index	
Current	Prev. Close
40,733.51	40,619.95
Day's High	Day's Low:
40,826.67	40,444.91
Index Value	Change
5,625,782,608	+ 113.56
Percentage	Time
+ 0.28%	2 Feb, 2023 5:00 pm
Europe: FTSE 100 Index	
Index Value	Change
7,810.35	+49.24
Percentage	Time
+ 0.63%	2 Feb, 4:14 pm GMT

Open Market Forex Rates

Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	188.9	191.3
Bahrain Dinar	712.73	720.73
Canadian Dollar	201	203.2
China Yuan	39.67	40.07
Danish Krone	39.11	39.51
Euro	298.27	298.87
Hong Kong Dollar	34.19	34.54
Indian Rupee	3.28	3.39
Japanese Yen	2.5	2.54
Kuwaiti Dinar	878	887
Malaysian Ringgit	62.83	63.43
New Zealand \$	173.25	175.25
Norwegians Krone	26.79	27.09
Omani Riyal	696.08	704.08
Qatari Riyal	73.62	74.32
Saudi Riyal	72.15	72.45
Singapore Dollar	204	206
Swedish Korona	25.61	25.91
Swiss Franc	291.69	294.19
Thai Bhat	8.15	8.3
U.A.E Dirham	73.72	74.02
UK Pound Sterling	335.50	336.20
US Dollar	271.10	271.6

Whale Cloud Technologies signed distribution agreement with Relacom

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Whale Cloud Technologies (an Alibaba Company) signed a Cloud Solution Distribution Agreement with Relacom in Pakistan. This agreement authorizes Relacom for the distribution of ZStack and Whale Cloud Services throughout Pakistan.

Whale Cloud, founded in 2003, is a global leading data intelligence technology company serving telecom operators, governments, enterprises in more than 80 countries. In 2018, Alibaba signed the strategic investment agreement to become Whale Cloud's largest shareholder. As an Alibaba company and an important partner of Alibaba Cloud's software service ecosystem, Whale Cloud is dedicated to bringing leading digital transformation technologies and data intelligence services to global enterprises. Relacom entered Pakistan market in 2004 to



become one of the leading technology services provider, providing Turn Key IT and Telecom infrastructure solutions such as Data Center solutions, Business Process Outsourcing, Managed Services, Data Migration & Integration, Cyber Security and Cloud Services.

During the signing ceremony, Managing Director of Whale Cloud in Pakistan, Mr. Junaid Shaheensaid "We cannot emphasize enough on the importance of Pakistan Market and its potential for cloud adaptation. We are pleased to have Relacom as our prime distributor having an excellent track record in Pakistan."

CEO Relacom, Abbas Ali Mirza, highlighted, "We are delighted in having the distribution rights of Whale Cloud Technology in Pakistan. Relacom is well geared for Whale Cloud and ZStack's support to achieve effective distribution and exceptional product growth."

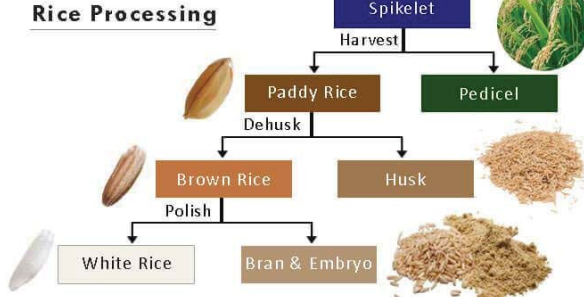
Rastgar Group & BUHLER Group host technology conference

News Desk

KARACHI: Rastgar Group in collaboration with Buhler Group organized a Rice Processing Expert event at its office in Korangi Karachi on February 1st, 2023. The event was attended by major rice exporters, members and senior office bearers of REAP. Heiko Jopke, a renowned Rice Processing Expert from Buhler Group shared his valuable insights on how to improve rice processing yields for Rice Exporters in Pakistan.

Rastgar also displayed Buhler Sortex machine which was the center of attention of participants which showed keen interest in the machine. Fuad Garib who is actually using Buhler Sortex machine for their rice processing ensured Exporter to upgrade to Buhler for better rice processing yields with minimum amount of waste

Imtiaz Rastgar, Chairman,



Rastgar Group spoke on the need for REAP to lobby the government of Pakistan on building capacity of Rice Sector through Supervised credit for global supply of value added rice products, with a view to earn better foreign exchange from the same crop size. REAP also needs government support for allowing machinery and spares from India. Imtiaz Rastgar also spoke about need for global collaborations by Pakistani Rice Exporters.

Heiko Jopke, Sales head of Buhler in Pakistan spoke about technical advancement of Buhler rice processing machines and the benefits rice exporters can derive from them. Heiko Jopke also answered questions from attendees regarding Buhler technology.

Engr. Naeem Khanani while sharing his thoughts on technology and innovation for food processing specially Rice to worthy members of Rice Exporters Association of Paki-

stan (REAP) on eve of Buhler & Rastgar jointly organized technical session on high yielding of rice processing through innovative technologies with minimal wastages target ingredients Export markets.

Event was well attended by REAP member companies and endorsed their confidence on Buhler technology. Some of key members who attended the event are Farhan Nadeem, CEO BabaSaraaj Corporation, Irfan Ahsan GM NIRA AV Pakistan, Mirza Tanveer Baig, Al-Karam Rice, Salar Ghori, Director Matco Foods, Safdar Hussain Mehkri, CONWILL Pakistan, M. Noman Arif, Proprietor AMI Exports and Managing Director, GARIBSONS.

Rastgar Group is committed to supporting the rice industry in Pakistan, and is excited to host such events in the future also to help rice exporters improve their operations and increase their yields.

Work in progress

LAHORE: LESCO staffers busy in installing new electric wires to avoid power shortage near Kalma Chowk underpass.

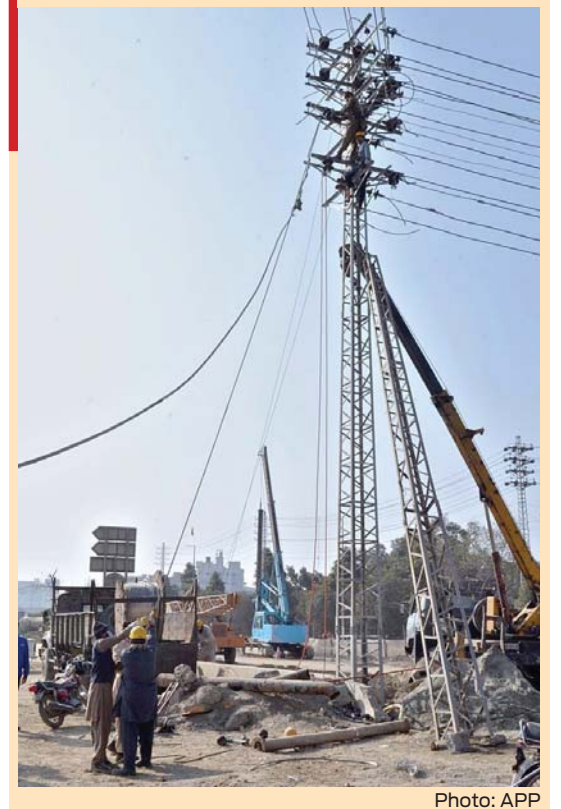


Photo: APP

Goodz Marketing achieves another milestone



News Desk

ISLAMABAD: The agreement of Premium Partnership between Ghraana.com and Goodz Marketing and Developers has been signed.

Under this partnership agreement, Gharaana and Goodz will work together in Punjab region on Projects Compliance.

The two companies signed the agreement in a ceremony held at Lahore office of Ghraana.com. During the Signing Ceremony, CEO of Goodz marketing Kaleem Gillani appreciated the whole Team for believing in the efforts of Goodz Marketing.

Likewise, the country head of Ghraana Nasir Malik said, "This partnership is going to be beneficial for both parties while working in an integrated environment".

Descon Oxychem completes 9-million 'safe' man-hours

Bureau Report

LAHORE: Descon Oxychem Limited (DOL) — a leader in Hydrogen-Peroxide (HP) market of Pakistan — which prides itself with a strong commitment for health, safety and environmental-sustainability, achieved the milestone of completing '9 million safe man-hours', spread over its 14 years of operations.

Commenting on this remarkable success, the Vice-Chairman of Descon, Faisal Dawood said, "I would like to congratulate every employee at Descon Oxychem for this accomplishment. Your performance has been inspirational over the years and I am sure you will continue to work with the same passion and diligence in future too."

A formal ceremony was held to reward the key performers of DOL, with certificates of recognition, to recognize their valued efforts for maintaining the highest level of operational-safety. Renowned scholar and



LUMS faculty member Dr Faheem Akhtar also attended the event and shared industry insights with the audience.

DOL Chief Executive Officer Muhammad Mohsin Zia expressed his delight on this

great achievement, and said, "Established in 2008, DOL has evolved and expanded rapidly, by adopting global standards of Health, Safety and Environment, quality and performance in this highly competitive industry.

Pakistan needs to explore alternatives to IMF

News Desk

KARACHI : President FPCCI on the occasion of book launch on Alternative to the IMF and other out of the box solutions by Dr. Shahida Wizarat, the eminent independent economist and author of more than 100 books and papers said that the treasure of knowledge applied by the author has opened a debate in context of failure of another IMF program.

Mr. Irfan Iqbal Sheikh added that this envisages the need of debating to develop better alternatives available to sustain the econ-

omy, which has not been able to frame its structure since the rollout of 23 programs which Pakistan completely or partially has followed.

Dr. Shahida Wizarat said that the debt crisis causing outflow of massive revenues to service debts and interest payments alone, along with the very harsh conditionalities of IMF for lending, have led to very undesirable consequences on income distribution and poverty in Pakistan.

Ambassador Syed Hassan Javed at the book launching event said that the event is most appropriate as 28 developing countries

Ericsson supports Pakistan in advancing its ICT sector as it seeks to support the next generation : Aamir Khan

Spokesman Report

What are the focus areas of Ericsson in Pakistan and what kind of services are you offering?

Over the course of our presence in Pakistan, Ericsson has built, expanded, and modernized networks across the country. This is part of our global efforts to enable the leading players in the telecom sectors to meet their future expansion and performance requirements as well as strengthen the long-term sustainability of their networks while enabling them to create and offer new services to consumers and businesses. Much of our work focuses on actively providing mobile backhaul infrastructure, network design and optimization services, as well as IT/BSS services including ADM and automation.

With digital transformation being a primary goal on the national agenda, we have been supporting Pakistan in building the required strong and robust ICT sector to bring its digital transformation vision to fruition. We are committed to providing our technology solutions and services to enable further development of 4G networks as well as their evolution to 5G and future innovations on which the digital future of the country will depend.

We heard Ericsson is interested in training Pakistani youth and creating job opportunities for them? Please share details

Pakistan has a large youth population with

a wealth of knowledge and potential. In order to play our part in realizing this potential, we are committed to closing the skills gap and providing young people with the latest technology skills they need to succeed in today's digital world. Through digital skill development programs, we have been enhancing the IT skills of Pakistan's youth and have launched a Graduate Trainee Program this year to help students develop their digital, technical, and business skills. This program provides a combination of on-the-job training, project-based learning, classroom instruction, and online education to help participants gain valuable experience and knowledge that will support their careers in the digital economy.

By providing young people with the skills and opportunities they need to succeed in the digital world, we are helping to build a more prosperous and sustainable future for Pakistan. In this fresh batch of young graduates, we have also been very focused on the diversity and inclusion, and we have welcomed several females graduates, which will further enhance the role of females in the STEM field.

Tell us about group's history and operations in Pakistan?

Ericsson's long association with Pakistan dates back to the late 1950s. We were involved in the formulation of the first telecom policy in the country and introduced digital wireline exchanges and mobile telephony in Pakistan. We have a strong presence in the country today and are committed to investing in the nation's

people, businesses, and society. Currently, we have presence across the country with offices in Lahore and Islamabad.

We are an active ecosystem player in the country and are playing our part in enabling mobile service providers to provide better services and user experience in the market. Fostering multiple collaborations, we have continuously been working together with public and private sector partners to design and build advanced cellular infrastructure and associated services.

We have also been working on mobile financial services projects that help spread financial inclusion for all Pakistanis. In parallel, we are consistently aligning and working with the Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) and the Ministry of Information Technology (IT) on relevant interest areas to share insights and learnings from our industry-leading research and development (R&D) and global expertise.

What role Ericsson plays in Telecom sector of Pakistan?

We are an active ecosystem player in the country and are playing our part in enabling mobile service providers to provide better services and user experience in the market. Fostering multiple collaborations, we have continuously been working together with public and private sector partners to design and build advanced cellular infrastructure and associated services. Much of our work focuses on actively providing mobile backhaul infrastructure, network design and optimization services, as



well as IT/BSS services including application development and management (ADM) and automation.

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nology (IT) on relevant interest areas to share insights and learnings from our industry-leading research and development (R&D) and global expertise.

Ericsson commitment to the future in Pakistan?

We are committed to provide our technology solutions and services to enable the further build out of 4G networks as well as their evolution to 5G and future innovations on which the digital future on the country will depend on.

As further testament to our commitment to Pakistan, we have recently injected substantial additional share capital in our local operations to provide a stable financial foundation for growth. We are also establishing a near-shore centre for IT in Pakistan, leveraging the depth of IT skills and capabilities in Pakistan for Middle East and Africa.

These are important and exciting times for Pakistan, and we will continue to increase our contribution to the country by further engaging the wider industry, start-ups, and academia, as well as increasing employment in the market by opening offshore delivery centers and increasing our presence and support for the nation.

Through partnerships and collaboration, we can see Pakistan achieve more telecommunications milestones that propel the country further in the 21st century.

The 74th Independence Day is momentous but is just the beginning of further growth and evolution that will continue to make the nation a beacon for possibility in Asia.

Sports' help empowering girls: Australian HC

Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Australian High Commission and Kinnaird College for Women, with the support of the Pakistan Cricket Board, hosted the 4th Girls' Cricket Cup with the objective to promote gender equality and empower girls through sport.

Australia's High Commissioner to Pakistan, Neil Hawkins congratulated the girls and schools on their participation and thanked Kinnaird and Pakistan Cricket Board for their valuable support.

"Sport can help tear down barriers and stereotypes. Every time these girls hit a boundary or take a catch, they're building their confidence and inspiring others," Hawkins said.

To prepare for the tournament, top coaches led the girls on a three-day coaching clinic.

"We are very grateful for the participation of first-class women's cricket coach-



es and members of the Pakistan National Women's Team, who took time out to build the girls' skills and encourage them to push beyond the boundaries" Hawkins said.

Head of Pakistan Women Crick-

et, Tania Mallick said that it was great to see young girls coming forward and making this tournament a success. We have been working for the growth of women's cricket in Pakistan for quite some time. Recently, our talented Paki-

stani team performed quite well in the inaugural ICC U19 Women's T20 World Cup. We hope tournaments like this will help us explore more talent at the grass-root level", she expressed.

Principal of Kinnaird College for Women, Rukhsana David said, "We are delighted to host this tournament for young girls. Kinnaird aims for gender empowerment through participation in sports. We are excited to have Pakistan's national women cricketers as mentors to the participants. This helps foster confidence, team spirit, and inspiration among the girls. We hope this tournament will go a long way in developing women's cricket in Pakistan."

The 4th Girls' Cricket Cup involved teams from four schools and sports institutes: Government Shuhda-e APS Memorial Girls High School, Government Central Model School, Government Tehzeeb-ul-Binat Model Girls School and Kinnaird Cricket Academy.

SACF chairman hosts Wasim Akram to discuss starting Saudi league

A Sports -

RIYADH: Former Pakistan captain and legendary pacer Wasim Akram met Saudi Arabia Cricket Federation (SACF) chairman Prince Saud bin Mishal Al-Saud here to discuss promoting the sport in the kingdom and to introduce their cricket league.

Saudi Arabia, well-known for their love for Football, shook the world when their national side stunned star footballer Lionel Messi's Argentina in the group fixture of last year's FIFA World Cup.

The side, however, failed to

make it to the Round of 32 but indicated a promising future ahead for the kingdom in the most popular sport.

The football-crazed Kingdom, however, has turned its attention towards cricket as Saudi Prince Saud Mishal held a meeting with legendary pacer Akram in a bid to promote the sport and also discussed the potential of starting a new cricket league.

Following their meeting, the Saudi Prince also honoured the legendary pacer with a custom jersey.

Taking to Facebook, the legendary pacer shared a picture

of him and Saudi Prince Saud Mishal posing with the jersey and thanked the Saudi prince for the gift and expressed his excitement for the upcoming Saudi league.

"What a trip to Riyadh had a great meeting with HH Saudmishal and talked about cricket in Saudi Arabia and so looking forward to starting a Saudi league Insha Allah very soon and thanks for this lovely gift, your highness. Hopefully, see you soon," wrote Akram.

It is pertinent to mention that Akram, who is the President of the most followed franchise of the Pakistan Super League



(PSL) Karachi Kings will continue to coach the former champions in the upcoming eighth edition of the marquee league, scheduled to commence on February 13 in Multan.

Babar, Sarfaraz and Shaheen feature in special edition of PCB Podcast

Sports Desk

LAHORE: As the eighth edition of the HBL Pakistan Super League continues to grip the imagination of the entire nation, the Pakistan Cricket Board has released a special edition of the PCB Podcast.

The 43rd edition of the PCB Podcast features Peshawar Zalmi's new captain Babar Azam, Quetta Gladiators' skipper Sarfaraz Ahmed and Shaheen Afridi, who led Lahore Qalandars to their maiden title last year. The three champion cricketers reflect on the previous events and preview the tournament that will be held in Karachi, Lahore, Multan and Rawalpindi from 13 February to 19 March.

2021 champions Multan Sultans will host reigning champions Lahore Qalandars in the opening match on 13 February, while Peshawar Zalmi will travel to Karachi where they will take on Karachi Kings on 14 February.

Babar Azam, who has the most runs (2,413) in the tournament's history: "Every HBL PSL edition is super exciting for me because of its competitive nature. There is a different challenge each year as the players with whom you share the Pakistan dressing room all year become your opponents."

"A new franchise, and a new season, this HBL PSL edition holds added significance for me and I am looking forward to making a good start in this journey."

"Sharing the dressing room with different players throughout - one season with Islamabad United and six seasons with Karachi Kings - has helped me a lot. You learn a great deal when you interact with other players, getting to know about their



mindset, training regime and the way they handle different situations.

"It is a dream for me to score a century in the HBL PSL as I already have two T20I centuries and a few more in different leagues. I am positive about achieving the three-figure mark in this HBL PSL, and hoping the right time comes soon for a big score."

Sarfaraz, who is the only player to captain his franchise in all the seasons: "The HBL PSL has played a very important role in the development of cricket in Pakistan. It has provided exposure to our players and they have learned how to handle the camera and crowd pressure, which is very important to grow as an international cricketer."

"Since it (HBL PSL) is a big brand, everyone follows it, and top players from

all over the world are involved, everyone takes note of those cricketers who perform."

"The winning side of the ICC Champions Trophy 2017 had the players who proved their mettle in the HBL PSL. Whether it was Fakhar Zaman, Hasan Ali, Faheem Ashraf, Shadab Khan or Rummara Raees, these guys were doing well in the domestic cricket and were picked by the PSL franchises. Their impressive performances in the HBL PSL earned them spots in the national side."

"So, the league's contribution in the development of cricket in the country is immense."

Lahore Qalandars had a massive change in their fortunes with the change in leadership. Being the only franchise not to have won an HBL PSL title, the Qalandars, under the captaincy of star speedster

Shaheen Afridi, bagged their maiden title by defeating Multan Sultans at their home ground, the Gaddafi Stadium, in front of a jam-packed crowd.

Shaheen, who has 70 wickets (the third most in tournament's history) at 20.77: "As a captain, I don't only think about those in the field but also for those who are sitting on the bench. You have to carry each and every player in the team and treat everyone equally and as a match winner, regardless of his seniority."

"The most important aspect of leadership is handling pressure. I need to handle pressure and be good with my decision-making, because if I let the pressure get better of me, my team would crumble. It is also important to lead from the front and outperform myself every time I take the field as it will motivate my players to do well."

Upcoming HBL PSL media releases:

3 February - New boys on the block
4 February - Fakhar, Sharjeel and Haris talk about becoming explosive opener
5 February - Role of fast bowlers
6 February - Significance of HBL PSL
7 February - PCB Podcast, featuring Imad Wasim, Mohammad Rizwan and Shadab Khan
Previous HBL PSL media releases:
20 January - HBL PSL 8 schedule announced
24 January - Fans to nominate Hamaray Heroes for HBL PSL 8
25 January - Teams strengthen rosters in HBL PSL 8 replacement draft
31 January - Babar Azam will aim to notch maiden century in HBL PSL
1 February - Shaheen raring for his comeback in HBL PSL 2023

Sohail Khan opens up on his spat with Virat Kohli in 2015 World Cup



A Sports -

KARACHI: Pakistan pacer Sohail Khan made a major assertion regarding his heated encounter with India's star batter Virat Kohli during the 2015 ODI World Cup in Australia.

When arch-rivals Pakistan and India squared off against each other in the 2015 World Cup, Indian batters dominated Pakistan's strong pace attack as they raised 300/7 at the back of Kohli's magnificent 107.

Despite a struggling outing, Sohail was the pick of the bowlers for Pakistan who bagged a five-wicket haul and leaked 55 runs in his 10-over spell. The right-arm pacer also dismissed centurion Kohli.

In the much-anticipated clash between two Asian giants, Sohail and Kohli got into a heated verbal exchange when the former came out to bat with Pakistan on the verge of defeat.

Sohail, during an interview with a prominent Youtuber's podcast, reflected upon his heated exchange with Kohli and claimed that he schooled him for good.

"Virat Kohli came to me and told me I talk too much despite being a newcomer to the team. I told him 'son, when you were playing for India U19, I was playing Test cricket for Pakistan. I have been playing Tests for Pakistan since 2006, and then I got injured,'" shared Sohail.

The right-arm pacer also claimed that then-Indian captain MS Dhoni also told Kohli to back off by terming Sohail an old bloke.

"That's how I said it. Then if you see carefully, Misbah intervened and he got angry at me. He asked me to keep quiet. Then MS Dhoni also came and told Kohli to back off. He's an old bloke, you don't know him," shared Sohail.

It is pertinent to mention that Sohail represented Pakistan in nine Tests, 13 ODIs and five T20Is. The right-arm pacer picked up 51 wickets over the course of his international career.

Intercarsity Zone-C Hockey Championship



News Desk

LAHORE: Intercarsity Zone-C Hockey Championship won by Swat University after defeated Malakand University by 3-1. This hockey event was played under the auspices of Bacha Khan University Charsada and played at Abdul Wali Khan Sports Complex Charsada. In this Championship Abdul Wali Khan University Mardan, Bacha Khan University Charsada, Malakand University, Swat University, and Boneez University took part in the hockey championship. On this occasion Bacha Khan University Director Sports and former International Athlete, Secretary Organizing Shabana Khattak thanked to all the participating universities he said that Bacha Khan University Charsada VC Professor Dr. Bashir Ahmed also played very vital role to hold this successful event and completely he always completely involve in sports events activities and particularly in this event and Shabana Khattak also paid the tribute to DSO Charsada Tehseen ullah who also supported this event.

OGDCL tops first round of PARCO T20 cricket tournament

Sports Reporter

ISLAMABAD: While displaying quality cricket and great sportsmanship, the Oil and Gas Development Company Limited's (OGDCL) cricket team has come out on top in the first round of the 7th PARCO T20 cricket tournament being played at the Moin Khan Academy in Karachi.

The cricket event features Pakistan's robust petroleum industry, with 12 leading companies participating in the tournament. During the first round, a fantastic display of true sportsman spirit by all teams was witnessed.

The tournament is highly competitive, but the OGDCL team's performance is outstanding so far, as the team has played with great determination. The team played five matches in the first round and remained unbeaten.

Kapp out of South Africa final after wife's World Cup snub

Sports Desk

EAST LONDON : Mari-zanne Kapp has been given "compassionate leave" and will miss South Africa's match against India in the final of a triangular women's Twenty-20 series in East London on Thursday.

Head coach Hilton Moreeng confirmed Kapp's absence, which followed the omission of her wife and former captain Dane van Niekerk from South Africa's squad for the Women's T20 World Cup which starts in Cape Town on February 10.

But Moreeng said Kapp would play in the World Cup, saying she was part of the

squad and "committed to us".

"We granted her leave so she can come to the World Cup and be ready to play," he added, speaking at a pre-match press conference.

Moreeng said Van Niekerk remained in the frame for future selection despite failing to meet Cricket South Africa's fitness requirements ahead of the World Cup.

It has been widely reported that Van Niekerk only failed in one category, missing a target of running two kilometres in nine minutes and 30 seconds by 18 seconds.

Kapp tweeted her support of Van Niekerk after the World Cup squad announcement and on Wednesday



morning posted a picture of a swimming pool with the caption, "Patiently waiting for the WPL auction."

Kapp, 33, and Van Niekerk,

29, have had long international careers. They made their international debuts in 2008/09 and are expected to feature in the auction for

the Women's Indian Premier League (WPL), likely to take place within the next two weeks.

Both players have already

been successful in franchise competitions in Australia and England.

The controversy over Van Niekerk's omission has led to speculation that both players may opt to concentrate on playing franchise cricket in the future.

South Africa are already without Wisden's Women's Cricketer of the Year Lizelle Lee, who retired suddenly last year after also struggling to maintain CSA's fitness standards, and another former captain, Mignon du Preez, who has retired.

Van Niekerk described herself as "absolutely broken" after being left out of South Africa's World Cup squad.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Whereas Syed Wajahat Khurshid S/O Syed Kurshid Ali was transferred plot No.415-D Block D satellite town scheme Rawalpindi vide Ap-8 2701 dated 2/11/2005

Now transferee wish to transfer his plot in the name of Sheikh Muhammad Naseem S/O Sheikh Muhammad Rafique.

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

Deputy Director Punjab Housing & Town Planning Agency Sub Region Rawalpindi

PUBLIC NOTICE

Whereas Mst.Fozia Ishfaq D/O Saliheen (shareholder) of plot No.120-B,Block-C peoples colony Area Development Scheme Attock has appointed General Power Attorney to her real brother Muhammad Kashif Rizwan S/O Saliheen vide registered deed No.226/4 dated 12/04/2018 from Sub Registrar Attock.

Now General Power Attorney wish to transfer share to her real brother Muhammad Sajid S/O Saliheen.

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

Deputy Director Punjab Housing & Town Planning Agency Sub Region Rawalpindi