



## President stresses importance of sports activities in healthy living

President Dr Arif Alvi stressed the importance of promoting healthy activities and sports that were closer to nature. He said the game of golf brought humans closer to nature. He said exercise and physical activities were very important for human health. (Report on Page 8)



## Modi: I am not scared of you, says daughter of Yasin Malik

Daughter of Hurriyat Kashmiri leader Yasin Malik, Raziya Sultana, has expressed her strong resentment over persecution of children in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir at the hands of occupying forces. In an exclusive podcast with Radio Pakistan, she regretted that the Kashmiri children are not being allowed to get education while pellet guns are also being used against them and their parents. (Report on Page 5)

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## World Cancer Day

ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Minister Primary and Secondary Healthcare Dr Jamal Nasir, Chief Executive Officer of Pakistan Sweet Home Zamarud Khan, Chairman PAEC Dr Raja Ali Raza Anwar and others hold a banner during a walk on the eve of World Cancer Day at Noori Hospital in Federal Capital. ONLINE PHOTO



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

## Sheikh Rasheed sent to jail on judicial remand

City Reporter

ISLAMABAD: An Islamabad court on Saturday rejected the police's plea to extend Awami Muslim League (AML) chief and former interior minister Sheikh Rasheed Ahmed's custody and sent him to jail on 14-day judicial remand.

Rasheed, who is a close aide of PTI chairman Imran Khan, was presented before the court of Judicial Magistrate Umar Shabbir after his two-day physical remand expired today.

However, the prosecution's request for an extension was turned down by the judicial magistrate and AML chief was sent to Adiala jail on judicial remand.

## IK's tweet designed to damage security, political atmosphere: Dar

Commerce Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar here on Saturday strongly criticized Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf Chairman, Imran Khan for his irresponsible tweet, designed only to damage the country's security situation and vitiate the political atmosphere.

In a tweet, the minister said the destruction caused by Imran Khan by dragged Pakistan Economy from World's 24th largest to 47th in 2022 speaks volumes of



removal from PM-office has gone berserk," the minister tweeted.

The contrast between Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Imran Khan cannot be more stark, he said adding Shehbaz Sharif invited him as Leader of a political party for a national dialogue on security subject and National Action Plan which effects every Pakistani and Khan's response in this uncount and crass manner was shocking.

"Regrettably, IK would prefer seeing the country go down than live honorably in opposition!" he said.

## Imran announces 'Jail Bharo' Movement

Bureau Report

LAHORE: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman and Former prime minister Imran Khan announced the 'Jail Bharo' movement.

As per details, the PTI chief Imran Khan said it is better to start the 'Jail Bharo' movement than protest on road. They are fond of getting us jails, we will

let them get their wish, he added.

Imran Khan said after the coming 90 days whoever stays in the government, article 6 will apply on them. The nation is expecting that the judiciary will stand by the constitution.

The former prime minister Imran Khan claimed that nothing is in control of the current government. People

should think about where is this country heading.

Speaking of overseas Pakistanis, the PTI chairman claimed that the 10 million Pakistanis who are living abroad are the country's strength. He said even if two million of them invest in Pakistan they would need to ask other countries for help.

# Political instability biggest threat to Pakistan's economy: Ahsan Iqbal

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Planning, Development & Special Initiatives Prof. Ahsan Iqbal on Saturday put forward the fact that political instability and adventurism had been the biggest threat to Pakistan's economy.

He was speaking at a Round Table Conference on "Pakistan's Economics", jointly organized by the Planning Ministry and the Lahore School of Economics, in Lahore.

The minister said in 2018, the outgoing government's Public Sector Development Program (PSDP) was worth Rs 1000 billion and Defence Budget was Rs 1000 billion as well - Whereas in 2022, the PSDP was reduced to merely Rs 500 Billion or less and "PTI's government started to default on public payments in their last financial quarter".

Professor Iqbal said that in order to earn policy dividends, there needed to be continuity as policies take root, grow, evolve, and start bearing fruits over a decade. Thus, policy efforts to expand a resource base in Pakistan (undertaken by the PML-N's government in its tenure) failed to bear fruits because they



became a victim of political instability.

The planning ministry further added that the ongoing debate around the economy must not discount the political landscape and its challenges as economic measures or woes are not in.

He said in this Vision 2010, it was identified that Pakistan must expand its energy capacity (despite the fact that Pakistan was an energy surplus in 90s).

However, the minister said that the democratic government was thrown out and as a result, Pakistan faced one of the worse energy crises in 2010 and onwards.

Similarly, the minister said that in 2013, his office came up with 'Vision 2025' that envisioned Pakistan becoming one of the top 25 economies by 2025.

The government took all measures to actualize this goal by overcoming

law and order issues, defeating terrorism, and breaking bottlenecks of energy and infrastructure (through CPEC). As a result, think tanks like PWC started predicting that Pakistan can become a top 25 economy by 2025.

Minister Iqbal said that the PML-N government for the first time ever transformed Pak-China strategic relations into economic relations - As a result, billions of dollars of investment started to pour into infrastructure/energy and other sectors. Thar Coal, a national resource was tapped for the first time ever.

He said the entire momentum that Pakistan picked up from 2013-18 got lost to the adventurism of "Tabeedee".

Furthermore, he said the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC)'s initial phase of infrastructural and energy projects was to be followed by the establishment of Special Economic Zones (SEZs) by 2024, where relocating Chinese investments (worth billions of dollars) were to be housed. However, from 2018 to 2022, "work never started on 5 out of 9 proposed SEZs and there is embarrassing progress on 4 SEZs that actually got started".

## Maulana Fazal calls on PM



Bureau Report

LAHORE: Amir of Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam (JUI-F) Maulana Fazal-ur-Rehman on Saturday called on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif.

During the meeting, they discussed the overall political situation of the country and other issues of mutual interest, Prime Minister Office Media Wing said in a press release.

## Jail Bharo Movement isn't for those crying after days of arrest: Marriyum

Bureau Report

LAHORE: Information Minister Marriyum Aurangzeb has criticised former premier and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan over 'Jail bharo' movement, saying that those who cry within two days cannot fill jails.

Addressing a press conference in Islamabad, the information minister challenged him to become the first to voluntarily surrender before police, saying that the party's leadership surrenders first to kick off 'jail bharo' movement.

Marriyum Aurangzeb said that those who shed tears after facing imprisonment for just two days, could never make jail bharo movement a success. "The PTI chief has made party workers a shield



for his politics", she said.

She gave a breakdown that several Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) leaders had spent behind bars without seeking a compensation from the then PTI government. "Nawaz Sharif had spent 374 days in jail, Shehbaz Sharif 340 days, Hamza Shehbaz 627 days, and Maryam Nawaz 157 days, without seeking a compensation," she added.

The minister further said that PML-N leadership has

presented its record of past four years and now Imran Khan will have to answer for the deteriorating economy, security situation in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and taking the country back to the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

She claimed that Imran Khan surrendered the country's economy to International Monetary Fund (IMF), pointing out that the former premier put all opposition and journalists behind the bars.

She said KP got Rs471 billion but questioned about the capacity building of the provincial police to deal with the terrorism. "They did nothing to protect the KP police, Rangers, people of province and Pakistan army personnel in the province," she added.

**روزِ یکجہتی کشمیر**

پاکستانی قوم کی جانب سے کشمیریوں کے ساتھ اظہارِ یکجہتی کا دن

**وزیر اعظم اسلامی جمہوریہ پاکستان**

کوریاست جموں و کشمیر کے عوام سے اظہارِ یکجہتی کے لیے

تحریک آزادی کے پیس یکرپ مظہر آباد آمد پر خوش آمدید کہتے ہیں

**آزاد حکومت ریاست جموں و کشمیر**

AK-280/N/02/23

## OIC contact group on Jammu and Kashmir

NEW YORK: Ambassador Munir Akram Permanent Representative of Pakistan to the UN met with Members of OIC contact group on Jammu and Kashmir Mr Yashar T Aliyev Permanent representative of Azerbaijan, Mr Abdul Aziz Alwasil Permanent Representative of Saudi Arabia, Mr Feridun Hadi Sinirlioglu Permanent Representative of Turkiye, and Ms Leya Aslanova from OIC observer Mission.



Photo: APP

## OIC Contact Group discusses collective efforts to promote a just and lasting resolution of Kashmir dispute

News Desk

UNITED NATIONS: The OIC Contact Group on Jammu and Kashmir at the United Nations met Friday to discuss collective efforts to promote a just and lasting resolution of the Kashmir dispute, according to a press release of the Pakistan Mission to the UN.

The informal meeting of the group — comprising Azerbaijan, Niger, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia and Turkiye — was convened by Pakistan's Ambassador to the UN Munir Akram.

Briefing the members on the latest situation in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK), he said that the disputed region was

the "densest occupation in history".

Despite India's massive repression, the Pakistani envoy said that the people of occupied Jammu and Kashmir were continuing their heroic struggle for the exercise of the right to self-determination, as prescribed by the UN Security Council resolutions.

On its part, he said Pakistan would continue to extend diplomatic, moral, and political support to the legitimate Kashmiri struggle for self-determination and to end India's occupation and oppression.

Ambassador Munir Akram thanked the members of the OIC Contact Group for their participation in the meeting and support for the Kashmir cause.

## Maryam to address PML-N workers' convention on Feb 9

Changes Khan Jadoon

ABBOTTABAD: Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz (PML-N) Senior Vice President and Chief Organiser Maryam Nawaz would visit Abbotabad on February 9 and also address a PML-N workers' convention.

This was announced by Federal Minister for Parliamentary Affairs Murtaza Javed Abbasi while chairing a meeting here on Saturday.

The meeting in this regard decided to organize an impressive reception for Maryam Nawaz and started preparations for the workers' convention. The meeting was attended by the leaders from across Hazara division.

The minister said that Maryam Nawaz would address the PML-N workers' convention on February 9, at 2 pm where party workers would also host a reception for their leader.

He said that Hazara is the hub of PML-N, our party has not only given the motorway to the region but also formed Hazara Electricity Supply Company (HAZECCO) and would continue to serve the masses.



In the meeting, former chief minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Peer Sabir Shah, former federal minister Sardar Muhammad Yousuf, MNA Dr. Malik Sajjad, Shah Jahan Yousuf, Sardar Aurangzeb Nalotha, Sardar Fareed, Gul Badshah, Sardar Zahoor, Malik Muhabat Awan, Sardar Mushtaq, Hamid Shah, Junaid Qasim, president women wing Hazara division Dr. Shaista Jadoon, former MPA Amna Sardar and others were present.

## President stresses importance of sports activities in healthy living

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi Saturday stressed the importance of promoting healthy activities and sports that were closer to nature.

Speaking at the concluding ceremony of a golf tournament here, he said the game of golf brought humans closer to nature. He said exercise and physical activities were very important for human health.

President stresses importance of sports activities in healthy living. President Dr Arif Alvi addressing the closing ceremony of the golf tournament.

It was healthy to be in a natural environment as it also



helped in taking better decisions, he added. He underscored the need for encouraging healthy activities like

golf among citizens, especially youth.

Earlier, the President gave away prizes to golfers who

won the golf tournament and achieved distinction in different categories of golf. Chief of Pakistan Navy

Admiral Muhammad Amjad Khan Niazi also attended the prize distribution ceremony. President stresses importance of sports activities in healthy living

President Dr Arif Alvi distributing awards among the winners and best players of the golf tournament organized by a local hotel.

Chief Executive Officer of Serena Hotels Aziz Bolani informed about the sports diplomacy undertaken by his hotel for the promotion of sports, especially golf.

President Dr. Alvi appreciated the hotel management for the initiative of organizing the golf tournament in the capital city.

## Pak High Commissioner calls for lifting of military siege of IIOJK

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan High Commissioner to Australia Zahid Hafeez Chaudhri has called upon the international community to urge India to ensure Kashmiris' right to self-determination as enshrined in the relevant United Nations Security Council resolutions.

He also stressed upon lifting of the military siege of the Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK), the release of the incarcerated Kashmiri leaders and the reversal of the illegal demographic changes over IIOJK.

India should immediately



end extra-judicial killings of the Kashmiris in fake encounters and stop staged cordon and search operations and restore all fundamental rights and freedoms of the Kashmiris people, the High Commissioner was speaking at a seminar, organized at the Consulate General

for Pakistan, Sydney to mark the 'Kashmir Solidarity Day', a press release on Saturday said.

He also reaffirmed Pakistan's full support to the Kashmiri people in their just struggle till the realization of their right to self-determination as enshrined in the relevant UNSC

resolutions.

The seminar was attended by Members of the Australian parliament, journalists, academicians, human rights activists and members of the Pakistani and Kashmiri community.

The keynote speakers included Senator David Shoebridge,

Senator Dr. Mehreen Faruqi, former Senator and human rights activist Lee Rhiannon and President of the Australian Federation of Islamic Councils Dr. Rateb Jneid.

About India's illegal and unilateral actions of 5 August 2019, Senator Mehreen Faruqi expressed grave concern over the gross and systematic human rights violations in IIOJK.

She also questioned the deafening silence of the international community over the protracted humanitarian crisis in the occupied territory and expressed firm resolve to continue to raise her voice at all foras.

## Indian Army exposed over fake encounters in Occupied Kashmir

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistani intelligence agencies have exposed the involvement of the Indian army and its spy agency Research and Analysis Wing (RAW) in fake encounters and smuggling activities.

Lies, fake encounters and extrajudicial killings have become the hallmark of the Indian Army, which along with the RAW is now involved in drug trafficking.

The reports of the Indian and the international media said that on the one hand, the Indian soldiers are busy committing suicide because of the situation, and on the other hand is also involved in the race to make show their performance before the Modi government by showing fake encounters in the occupied Kashmir.

## Kashmir Solidarity Day in Private Educational Institutions

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister, Rana Tanveer Hussain highlighted that struggle of peoples of Kashmir for their right to self-determination as per UN resolution. He emphasized that "We stand in solidarity with the peoples of Kashmir and call for an end to violence, oppression and human rights violations that have plagued the region for far too long. He further said that Ministry of Federal Education & Professional Training is committed to raising awareness and providing support to the peoples of Kashmir and would continue to work towards ensuring that their voices are heard and their rights respected in line with the Vision of Mian Shabbaz Sharif, Prime Minister, Islamic Republic of Pakistan.

In compliance to instructions issued by Private Educational Institutions Regulatory Authority (PEIRA), private schools and colleges in Islam-



abad observe Kashmir Solidarity Day every year, to highlight the atrocities of the Indian occupation forces in Kashmir. Special events are also arranged at different institutions with focus on Issue of Kashmir and Solidarity with Kashmiri on February 05, 2023 wherein different activities including speeches / essay writing / quiz competition, painting/poster making, display of poster, solidarity walk, tableau/performance by students are organized in private schools/colleges in

Islamabad on the issue of Kashmir. Moreover,

Private Schools Association Islamabad highlighted that an internationally recognized day observed by people, predominantly Kashmiris, worldwide. President Mr Zofran Ellahi and Secretary General Abdul Waheed Khan said The day is marked by, special prayers in Morning Assembly for the liberation of Kashmir and protests that are carried out against the Indian oppression of Kashmir.

## KP expresses complete solidarity with Kashmiris

Bureau Report

PESHAWAR: Caretaker Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Muhammad Azam Khan has said that on Kashmir Solidarity Day, the people of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and the provincial government express complete Solidarity with Kashmiri people, and reiterate their resolve to extend moral, political and diplomatic support to them in their struggle to get the right of self-determination.

In a statement issued on Kashmir Solidarity Day, Muhammad Azam Khan said that the right of self-determination was the basic right of the people of Kashmir, and their struggle for the same could not be suppressed through oppression by the Indian government.

## Adopting traffic laws and regulations save precious lives: Ch. Asif Siddique

Mian Rashid Asghar

FAISALABAD: On the direction of CTO Faisalabad, the activities for traffic awareness by the education unit of City Traffic Police are commendable.

With such measures, it will be possible to protect precious human lives on the roads and children will learn how to walk on and beside the roads?

Raising traffic awareness is the need of the hour. These views were expressed by the Principal of Educator School on the occasion of the activity-based camp of the Traffic Police Education Unit.

# Shazia Marri meets Global Director, World Bank at Washington DC, USA

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Poverty Alleviation and Social Security Shazia Marri held a meeting with Michal Rutkowski, Global Director for Social Protection and Jobs at the World Bank in Washington DC, USA, today.

The Minister is visiting the United States at the invitation of World Bank to share Pakistan's experiences on adaptive social protection as well as the post flood issues.

Director Rutkowski appreciated the important role played by BISP and other institutions in Government of Pakistan's swift, adaptive and resilient response during the devastating and unprecedented floods last year. He acknowledged the significant contributions of BISP in protecting the livelihoods of the most vulnerable segments of Pakistani population,



particularly in the aftermath of the floods.

Director Rutkowski praised BISP as a successful model and said it could be implemented by other countries in the region and beyond.

The Federal Minister conveyed gratitude on behalf of the Government of Pakistan at the prompt response and

tremendous support extended by the World Bank during the catastrophic floods. She stated that BISP was launched in 2010, and since then it had become a resounding success in ameliorating the fate of the poorest of the poorest families in Pakistan. She underscored that the scope and magnitude of the adaptive social

protection strategies would be further enhanced in Pakistan and top priority would be accorded to education, healthcare and nutrition.

The Federal Minister said World Bank's technical assistance would go a long way in maximizing the outreach and success of social protection programs in Pakistan.

Director Rutkowski assured the Federal Minister that World Bank would broaden its engagements and augment its assistance to Pakistan to foster better outcomes and enhance productivity of Pakistan's social protection strategies through skill enhancement trainings and other means

Ms Shazia Marri presented a Booklet on various projects of Benazir Income Support Programme to the Global Director of World Bank. Sardar Masood Khan, Pakistan's Ambassador to the United States was also present at the occasion.

## Local people up to grade 16 should be recruited for new posts: Aman Ullah Wazir

Adam Khan Wazir

WANA: In South Waziristan Lower Wana President of Pakistan People's Party and former National Assembly candidate Aman Ullah Wazir has said that since South Waziristan has been divided into two districts, Upper and Lower,

by which the excesses of different nations in the past seventy-five years history will be resolved.

He said that Wazir, Suleman Khel and Dottani tribes are living in South Waziristan Lower, who are suspicious that their rights were taken over by other nations in the last seventy five years. Now, since the tribal districts are merged into the province, the rights will be distributed in proportion to the population

The process of turning the majority into a minority and the minority into a majority has stopped.

He said that after the establishment of the two new districts of Upper and Lower Waziristan, new posts will be made in various departments here.

He appealed to the Caretaker Chief Minister and Governor of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa to recruit local youth from scale 1 to scale 16 for the posts of various departments in the new district, so that the confidence of these patriotic tribes can be restored due to the so-called war of terrorism.

He said, that from scale 1 to scale 16, if people from outside districts or provinces were recruited, the local residents would not only reject such protest against of the government,

Rather, they will consider it a great injustice to the local people's qualified youth, so it is their right to recruit local people on these scales.

## Kashmir is the aorta of Pakistan: Dr. Jabbar Khan

Adam Khan Wazir

DERA ISMAIL KHAN: A grand function was organized on the occasion of Kashmir Day at Wensum College of Gomal University.

Registrar Gomal University Dr. Jabbar Khan was the chief guest of the event while Controller of Examination Prof. Dr. Nimatullah Babar, Vice Principal of Wensum College Dr. Muhammad Junaid Siraji and other administrative officers, teachers and students of University Wensum College were present along with him.

On this occasion, the students also gave a speech on the occasion of Kashmir Day, while the children won the hearts of the participants by presenting a beautiful tableau to show solidarity with Kashmiri brothers and sisters.

Addressing the ceremony, Registrar Dr. Jabbar Khan said that the purpose of celebrating Kashmir Day today is actually to convey this message to the whole world and especially to India.

That Kashmir is the aorta of Pakistan and every citizen of Pakistan was with all his Kashmiri brothers and sisters and will be with them till their independence.

But unfortunately, I don't know why international media, United Nations and international human rights organizations are silent.

Dr. Abdul Jabbar Khan further said that today is the day of our renewal of pledge that Kashmir was ours, is ours and will remain ours, Kashmir is an integral part of Pakistan. Kashmiris are our brothers and all Pakistanis, including me, are and will continue to be equal participants in their suffering.

Controller of Examinations Dr. Nimatullah Babar and other teachers also addressed the event.

Registrar Gomal University had further to say that oppression will end one day and God willing, one day will come when Kashmir will be free, at the end of the ceremony; a walk was also organized to express solidarity with Kashmir.

## Protest

KARACHI: Women lawyers of Sindh High Court shouting slogans during protest in favor of their demands outside press club in Provincial Capital.



Photo: Online

# Ministry of Education expresses solidarity with Kashmiri brethren

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Government of Pakistan announced three days protest on the occasion of Kashmir Solidarity Day. On second day of the occasion, a range of activities were organized by the departments under the umbrella of Ministry of Federal Education & Professional Training, to show their support for the people of Kashmir and to raise awareness about the ongoing human

rights situation in the region.

In a statement, the Federal Minister for Education said: "We stand in solidarity with the people of Kashmir and call for the international community to take action to protect their human rights. The ongoing violence and oppression in the region is unacceptable and must be addressed. We call on all people of conscience to support the cause of Kashmir and to demand an end to the suffering of its people."



Secretary IBCC, Dr Ghulam Ali Mallah visited Sports Complex Islamabad to witness the ongoing sports activities of Sports Gala 2022-23 organized by Inter Board Sports Committee and distributed the prizes and medals among the winners. The closing ceremony of the sports gala will be held on February 5 at hockey ground, Sports Complex Islamabad at 11:00 am along with the interactive session with the youth of Pakistan to celebrate Kashmir Solidarity Day.

Islamabad Model School (I-V) and various Islamabad Model College for Girls and Boys organized Kashmir Cultural Festival Shows, National Commission of Human Development organized an awareness campaign at NCHD federal schools in Sindh.

NFCIET Multan also organized a sketch Competition. In addition to this, many other festivals were also organized across Pakistan, includes Kashmir cultural festivals shows, plays, debate and speech competitions, solidarity walks, awareness sessions and other activists. Participants held signs and banners calling for peace, justice, and an end to the violence and oppression in Kashmir.

The events were attended by a large and diverse crowd, including individuals from all walks of life and backgrounds, who came together to show their support for the people of Kashmir. The day was marked by a spirit of unity and a commitment to stand in solidarity with those who are facing injustice and oppression.

# PAC holds painting and sculpture competitions

News Desk

RAWALPINDI: Painting and sculpture competitions were organized during the Gandhara Festival organized by the Punjab Arts Council. Director Arts Council Waqar Ahmed was the chief guest of the competitions. The children participating in the competition have beautifully captured the different eras and buildings of the Gandhara civilization on the canvas.

Director Arts Council Waqar Ahmed said that events based on art and culture is the hallmark of any nation and region where they are a source of healthy entertainment. Nations who forget their identity are doomed to destruction. Punjab is the land of beautiful cultural colors, the changing nights here share love, if it is said like this, it will



not be out of place that the regional customs and traditions and cultural traditions of Punjab are the crown of the society.

# Experts urge revolutionary economic measures to avert default

City Report

ISLAMABAD: Speaking at a webinar on Saturday, the economists warned of historic hard-times ahead for Pakistan even after the bailout package agreement with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) that is likely to be approved by the coming week. It would be a milestone that would pave the way for the release of an additional \$1.2 billion in loans and unlock more funding from the IMF and other friendly countries.

The IMF is demanding to increase the General Sales Tax by one percent, from 17 percent to 18 percent. Government is also proposing to increase Federal Excise Duty on the purchase of business class air tickets and levy an additional 50 paise FED per cigarette stick. The demand for circular debt reduction will also have an impact on the energy tariffs which may go by at least 25 percent. The levy of GST on Petroleum products is also being considered which will increase the prices by at least 17 percent. All of these will increase inflation rate and will further erode purchasing power of the masses.

The webinar was organized by the Devcom-Pakistan (Development Communications Network) and DTN on Saturday on the subject "IMF-Pakistan Deal: Impact and the Way Forward". Pakistan's Former chief economist Dr Pervez Tahir was the keynote speaker. The guest speakers included economist and Deputy Executive Director Sustainable Policy Development Institute Dr. Sajid Amin, Prime economic research insti-

tute Executive Director Ali Salman, development economist from Sri Lanka Dr. Rohantha Athukorala, Devcom-Pakistan Executive Director Munir Ahmed.

Dr. Pevez Tahir said with the rate of inflation at 27.6 percent and expected to rise steeply, food beyond the reach of the poor and the lower middle class and the fuel cost hitting even the middle and upper middle class, the common perception seems to be that things have to get worse before they get better.

Dr. Sajid Amin said the IMF deal will add more to inflation, hence, the government shall take necessary measures to prevent the large segment of the public from the inflationary impact.

Ali Salman said what the government calls "tough and unimaginable" measures are not tough in real terms while some of them will fail to yield any substantial gains. They are not tough on the government and its institutions, which can recover costs and losses through more taxes and duties.

He suggested bringing the rate of GST down to a single digit and stop the complicated process of refunds by converting into a single stage payment.

Dr. Rohantha Athukorala said that Pakistan was making the same mistake as Sri Lanka that delayed going to the IMF programme. Before the default, Sri Lanka was more dependent on external funds, having no sustainable internal growth model. Over expenditures and political instability led his country to a severe economic crisis.



**RDA** No. RDA/MP&TE/F-PHS-117/109/2023 Dated the Rawalpindi, the 02/02/2023

**RAWALPINDI DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY**

**The Punjab Development Authorities Private Housing Schemes Rules-2021**

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

**(GOLDEN JUBILEE COOPERATIVE HOUSING SOCIETY, MOUZA KOTHA KALAN TEHSIL & DISTRICT**

The public is hereby informed through this notice that **GOLDEN JUBILEE COOPERATIVE HOUSING SOCIETY**, office at **SOS village (P.O. Humak) Soan G.T Road Rawalpindi** has applied to Rawalpindi Development Authority for approval of Layout Plan (Revised) of the scheme namely Golden Jubilee located in mauza Kotha Kalan Tehsil & District Rawalpindi having total area of 291 kanal under Rule-43 of Punjab Development Authorities Private Housing Scheme Rules-2021.

Any person having objection against revised approval of housing scheme w.r.t to internal changes in layout plan within fifteen days of publication of this notice, submit the same in writing to undersigned. No objection other than w.r.t internal changes within the boundary of already approved scheme shall be entertained. Any objection filed after due date shall not be entertained. This notice shall not be taken a commitment of RDA for sanction of the scheme.

**Muhammad Tahir Meo**  
Director (MP&TE)  
Metropolitan Planning and Traffic Engineering  
Directorate Near Liaqat Bagh, Murree Road,  
Rawalpindi Ph # 051-5554043 Fax # 5770389

یوم یکجہتی کشمیر  
February 5, 2023 Kashmir Solidarity Day



#KashmirSolidarityDay  
#PakistanStandswithKashmir



**Dr Arif Alvi**  
President, Islamic Republic of Pakistan



**Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif**  
Prime Minister, Islamic Republic of Pakistan



**Bilawal Bhutto Zardari**  
Foreign Minister, Islamic Republic of Pakistan



**Qamar Zaman Kaira**  
Adviser to the Prime Minister on Kashmir Affairs and Gilgit Baltistan

Today, we observe Kashmir Solidarity Day to express Pakistan's unflinching support for the legitimate and just struggle of the Kashmiri people for the realization of their inalienable right to self-determination. On this occasion, we pay rich tribute to the selfless sacrifices made by our Kashmiri brothers and sisters during their decades-old resistance to the Indian occupation. We observe this day to draw the attention of the international community towards the relevant UN Security Council Resolutions which provide that the final disposition of the Jammu and Kashmir Dispute would be made in accordance with the will of the people, expressed through the democratic method of a free and impartial plebiscite conducted under the auspices of the United Nations. Over the last 75 years, the Indian occupation forces have unleashed a reign of terror and carried out a relentless campaign to intimidate and suppress the people of Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK). The presence of more than 900,000 Indian armed personnel has turned the region into an open prison. India's illegal and unilateral actions of 5 August 2019 in IIOJK were a blatant violation of international laws, including the UN Charter, the 4th Geneva Convention, and the relevant UN Security Council resolutions. India has been consistently engaged in efforts to further entrench these illegal measures through artificial demographic changes, political engineering, economic marginalization of the local people and an assault on Kashmiri identity and culture. It is alarming that India is undertaking demographic changes in IIOJK by bringing non-Kashmiris to settle in the valley. India's heavy-handed approach frequently manifests itself in extrajudicial killings, arbitrary detentions, custodial torture, enforced disappearances and the use of pellet guns in IIOJK. India has muzzled the media and incarcerated the Kashmiri leadership and defenders of human rights. These excesses and brutalities have been well-documented by several human rights organizations and international media outlets. Today, Pakistan calls upon India to allow unfettered access to the UN and OIC observers, international media and human rights organizations to IIOJK to obtain first-hand information about the situation there, and investigate and report the human rights violations. Pakistan also urges the international community and organizations to take practical steps to hold India accountable for its gross and widespread human rights violations in IIOJK. Pakistan has consistently maintained that a lasting solution to the Jammu and Kashmir Dispute is possible only in accordance with the relevant UN Security Council Resolutions and wishes of the Kashmiri people. Pakistan will continue to extend its unstinted moral, diplomatic and political support for this just cause.

Every year, on the fifth of February, the people of Pakistan reaffirm their solidarity with their Kashmiri brothers and sisters. On this Kashmir Solidarity Day, we renew our commitment of our unflinching support to them in their just struggle for inalienable right to self-determination. The Jammu and Kashmir dispute is one of the oldest, unresolved items on the agenda of the United Nations. Over the last seventy-five years, India has continued its illegal occupation of Jammu and Kashmir and suppressed its people. Thousands of Kashmiris have sacrificed their lives and suffered countless atrocities at the hands of the Indian Occupation Forces. The already bad situation took a turn for the worst following India's illegal and unilateral actions of 5 August 2019. These illegal and unilateral steps have been rejected by Pakistan and the Kashmiris. The human rights situation in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu & Kashmir (IIOJK) remains a source of grave concern to Pakistan and the rest of the world. India has brazenly targeted Kashmiri men, women and children through curfews, blackouts, arbitrary detention, imprisonment, and denial of basic rights. The popular Kashmiri political leadership has been illegally detained or deliberately victimized through fictitious cases. The media has been silenced through coercion and religious scholars have been arrested. Draconian laws have been enacted that deny the fundamental freedoms of the Kashmiri people. India has also intensified its campaign to bring about demographic changes in IIOJK, so as to convert the Kashmiris into a minority in their own land. These actions are in violation of UNSC resolutions and international law, including the 4th Geneva Convention. India is mistaken if it believes it can crush the iron will of the Kashmiri people. No amount of state terrorism, unleashed by Indian Occupation Forces, can break the will of the Kashmiris or undermine their legitimate struggle. We urge India to honour its commitments made to Pakistan, the UN and, above all, to the Kashmiri people. On behalf of the entire Pakistani nation, I want to assure our Kashmiri brothers and sisters that we stand shoulder to shoulder with them. We will continue to lend moral, diplomatic and political support to their just cause, until they attain freedom from Indian oppression. Pakistan will also continue to raise its voice at all international platforms and highlight India's barbaric actions in IIOJK.

As we observe the Kashmir Solidarity Day, the people of Pakistan salute the sacrifices of our Kashmiri brothers and sisters who have suffered for more than seventy-five years under brutal Indian oppression. For over seven decades, Indian Occupation Forces have brutalized the Kashmiris and denied them their rights. Today, Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) is one of the most-militarized zones of the world, with the presence of over 900,000 occupation forces. With its illegal and unilateral actions of 5 August 2019, India has opened a new chapter in suppressing the people of IIOJK. With fresh delimitation of electoral constituencies, issuance of millions of domicile certificates to non-Kashmiris, and addition of hundreds of thousands of non-Kashmiris in the voters lists, India's ruling dispensation aims to transform Kashmiris into a disempowered minority in their own land. Kashmiris are living in a constant state of fear as Indian forces engage in indiscriminate use of force and extra-judicial killings in staged "cordon-and-search" operations. Political activists and human rights defenders face arbitrary detention, torture and confiscation of properties. India must end its gross human rights violations in IIOJK; reverse its unilateral and illegal actions of 5 August 2019 including demographic changes; repeal draconian laws; allow UN-mandated investigations into cases of extrajudicial killings and; implement relevant UN Security Council resolutions on Jammu and Kashmir. I want to remind our Kashmiri brothers and sisters that Pakistan will never sit back and watch silently while Kashmiris continue to suffer Indian atrocities. Jammu and Kashmir dispute will remain a key pillar of Pakistan's foreign policy. We will continue to lend unstinted moral, diplomatic and political support to the Kashmiri people until the realization of their right to self-determination in accordance with the UN Security Council resolutions.

On this Solidarity Day, we stand united with our Kashmiri brethren in their valiant struggle to achieve the long overdue legitimate right to self-determination. The unflinching support of government of Pakistan and its people to the people of Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir for realization of their inalienable right to self-determination has remained unshaken throughout last seven decades. We salute and pay tribute to our Kashmiri brothers and sisters for resisting all tools of Indian state terrorism and sacrificing their lives for their birthright of self-determination. Indian tools of state terrorism like extrajudicial killings, arbitrary detentions, torture, forced disappearances, collective punishments and incarceration of Kashmiri leaders have miserably failed to subdue the will of Kashmiri people. The indigenous and untiring struggle of Kashmiri people has proved that no level of suppression can break their will for their just demand of right to self-determination. In desperation, India took illegal and unilateral actions on August 05, 2019 and revoked the special status of Indian illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir IIOJK in order to implement its sinister design to change the demography of IIOJK. Since then, more than four million domiciles have been issued to non-Kashmiris. New property laws have been promulgated to usurp the land of Kashmiris. India is also manipulating the local elections by redrawing the electoral constituencies for allocating higher number of seats for Hindu majority areas. All of these Indian obnoxious steps are blatant violation of United Nations Security Council resolutions, international laws and 4th Geneva Convention. Pakistan, Kashmiris and the world community have widely rejected these illegal engagements and deceptions of India. These steps are glaring manifestation of the RSS inspired Hindutva mindset of Indian government which marginalizes minorities. Today India stands exposed before the world as an aggressor and oppressor. Its so-called secular and democratic credentials stand fully discredited. India must realize that Kashmiris have a glorious history of standing up against all tools of suppression and any misadventure of Indian authorities will further strengthen the Kashmiris resolve for freedom from Indian occupation. Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif and Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari have undertaken enormous efforts in highlighting the Kashmir issue on all international forums. As a result, we have seen increased awareness in the world community of this festering dispute. International human rights organizations like Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch, United Nations Office of Higher Commissioner for Human Rights and Independent Permanent Human Rights Commission of OIC have well documented and highlighted the human rights violations in IIOJK. Today India's mantra of Kashmir being "internal" matter of India rings hollow. The world community must recognize its collective obligation towards Kashmiris. The continued apathy towards suffering of Kashmiri people will have disastrous consequences for the region and beyond. Pakistan has consistently maintained that durable peace and security in the region is contingent upon peaceful resolution of the core issue of Jammu and Kashmir. We once again reiterate our resolve that Pakistan will continue to provide all possible political, diplomatic and moral support to the Kashmiris in their just struggle for right to self-determination as enshrined in UNSC resolutions and as per wishes of the Kashmiri people.

کشمیر کی وادی میں  
کیا ظلم اتارا ہے  
پھولوں کو بھی روندنا ہے  
بچوں کو بھی مارا ہے  
حساموش گواہوں کو  
معلوم تو سارا ہے  
کس منہ سے کہا تم نے  
کشمیر تمہارا ہے



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# Russia-Ukraine War, and the warfare economy of US



Analysis

Zohaib Tariq

One of many reasons, apart from assassination of Archduke Ferdinand, for the start of world war one was consistent military build-up between Germany and Britain, as both see themselves as competitors in global markets, thus the military buildup by either side created a state of security dilemma between both sides, which ultimately resulted in a war. Similarly, same security dilemma was persistent between Ukraine and Russia as the former was interested in joining NATO, which would resultantly make western powers reaching doorsteps of Russia, as Moscow is approximately five hundred kilometres from Ukrainian border, while the flatlands of Ukrainian-Russian

border would make Moscow's defence against NATO's at a strategic disadvantage. Thereby, Russia acted preemptively and invaded Ukraine on 24th February, 2022. Not to mention the fact that ever since Zelensky, the current president of Ukraine, came to power, he had a tilt toward the west and was pushing Ukraine into the western bloc by different tactics, he shutdown Russian TV shows, arrested a close friend of Putin and charged him with treason which added to insecurities of Moscow against Ukraine and increased the security dilemma in the region.

Another perspective to the current Russia-Ukraine war is that Russia was supplying for energy needs of European countries, mainly Germany, which created rifts between US and EU as Russian economic backbone was its energy resources which it supplied to global markets, and US did not want its rival Moscow to become economically sustainable while its allies such as EU being financially dependent on Russia. Therefore, it is perceived as that it was US interests, particularly because of its military industrial complex and global capitalism that it a

war in Ukraine and containing Russia into for a significant period of time was its core objective, and that is perhaps why US was pushing the narrative to include Ukraine into NATO, which would outrage Moscow,

Previous military aid, like the American HIMARS rocket system was delivered to Ukraine. North Korea accused the United States and its allies of "further crossing the red line" by sending tanks to Ukraine.

to invade Ukraine. John Mearseheimer, an International Relations scholar belonging to realist school of thought, blames Washington for provoking Moscow to invade Ukraine and he held US responsible for it. He argues that US was well aware of the fact that giving Ukraine the

membership of NATO is, as is terms of then US ambassador to Moscow, William Burns (the current director of CIA), was the "brightest of all redlines" for Russia, but still US pushed Ukraine to join NATO. It is all because of US, military industrial complex and global capitalism which is the reason US provoked this war. US continues to work to contain and weaken Russia by engaging it in Ukraine for a significant period of time while its military industrial complex benefits from the war. According to a recent report, Western countries will deliver more than 300 tanks to Ukraine, Kyiv's ambassador to France said Friday. "As of today, numerous countries have officially confirmed their agreement to deliver 321 heavy tanks to Ukraine," Vadym Omelchenko told French TV station and CNN affiliate BFM television. The figure from Omelchenko comes after the US this week pledged to provide 31 M1 Abrams tanks and Germany agreed to send 14 Leopard 2 A6s. The decision to deliver the M1 Abrams tanks was announced just hours after Germany said it would send 14 of its Leopard 2 tanks to the battlefield. Previously the

United Kingdom has pledged 14 Challenger 2 tanks, while Poland has asked for approval from Germany to transfer some of its own German-made Leopard 2s to Ukraine. Previous military aid, like the American HIMARS rocket system was delivered to Ukraine. North Korea accused the United States and its allies of "further crossing the red line" by sending tanks to Ukraine.

The US has a "sinister intention to realize its hegemonic aim by further expanding the proxy war for destroying Russia," said Kim Yo Jong, the sister of North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, in a statement run by North Korean media on Friday. The European Union alongside US will continue to supply Ukraine with weapons the cycle of global capitalism will repeat. As a result more misery and distractions to wage on in the Eastern European countryside. It is about time to resolve all disagreements through dialogue and diplomacy as per the international norms.

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## UN asked to fulfill obligations towards Kashmiris' rights

World Forum for Peace & Justice, Chairman Dr. Ghulam Nabi Fai, on Saturday called upon the international community and the UN Secretary General to fulfill their obligations towards peace as well as realization of the Kashmiris' rights as enshrined in the UN Security Council resolutions.

In a statement, Fai said if there had been popular support in Kashmir for joining India, the dispute over Kashmir would have lasted for a year or so at the most. It would have dissolved long ago.

He forewarned India that it is time to end the violence. It's time to end the charade. It's time for Kashmiris to sort out their own affairs and determine their own future, Fai added.

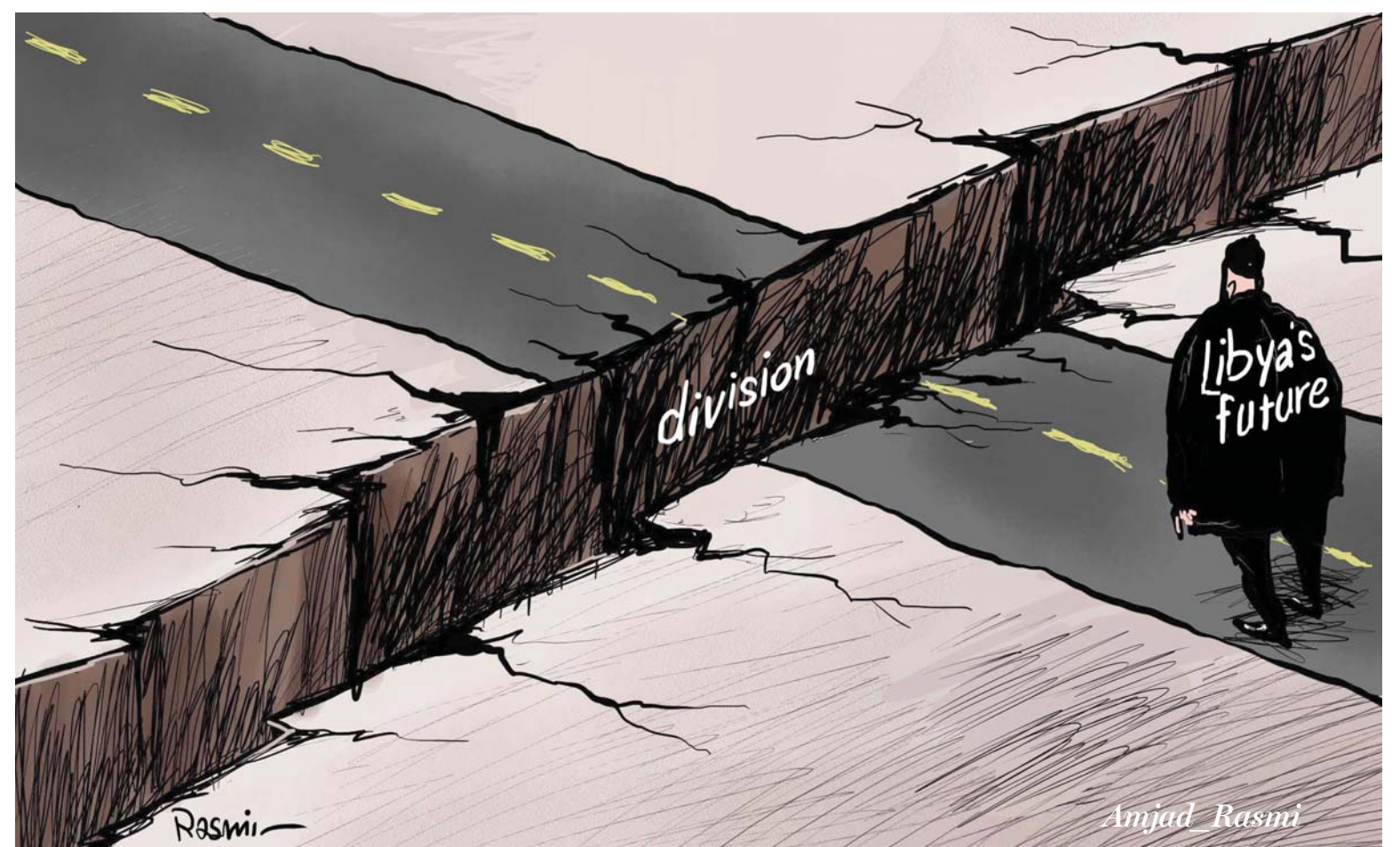
While thanking the people of Pakistan for their continuous diplomatic support for the cause of Kashmir, Dr. Fai elucidated that the response by the world powers, including the United States to the Kashmiri situation must be based on the principles of the right of the people with a distinct historical and cultural identity to decide their own future; the sanctity of international agreements worked out by the United Nations; a peaceful and stable subcontinent free from the possibility of a regional nuclear exchange; and the consistent application of human rights standards.

Such an approach could lead to a just and peaceful resolution of the 76-year-old dispute that would be a lasting credit to U.S. foreign policy under the Biden administration. On the other hand, reluctance to undertake such an initiative neither contributes to a long-term strategy of global peace and security nor answers the demands of human conscience and the principles of justice, Fai explained.

Resolving the Kashmir dispute requires a careful evaluation of its many points of contention and addressing them one by one in a carefully drawn-out process in which coming to an agreement on each sets the stage for moving on to the next.

The most basic set of principles must be established and adhered to regarding human rights, the interests of the Kashmiris themselves, and the preservation of vital interests that both India and Pakistan have at stake, and then to proceed with steps toward objectives that result in a win-win solution for all.

Dr. Fai warned that gimmickry and maneuvers, no matter by whom encouraged and approved, cannot be a response to a demand for which tens of thousands have shed their blood in Kashmir. To ignore this principle is to plan for failure.



Rasmi

Anjad Rasmi

## Is investor's fright an investments' flight?

Pakistan is nestled in the southern part of Asia, sitting precariously between Afghanistan, India, Iran, and below China, with the Arabian sea lapping on its southern shores and the Himalayas barricading its northern peaks, five mighty rivers making their way through from the north to the south meandering between fertile plains and glancing at the golden sands of three desert regions while barely avoiding the mine-rich red sands of Balochistan. The picture is perfect. With the sulfur of the Arabian waters sparkling under the sun and the wheat fields providing the gold amidst blooming mustard and paddies of rice, it is unimaginable to register that this is the country shackled with corruption, incompetence, ill will, and a never-ending saga of the power struggle between stakeholders.

During my recent visit to Riyadh and interactions with Saudi leadership, I couldn't help but notice the excellent progress that Saudi Arabia has managed within a stipulated time frame and is now looking at countless opportunities to be part of the first world in terms of technology, tourism, healthcare, and most importantly education. Within 6 years of the launch of the 2030 vision, KSA has practically changed the entire paradigm. From social to economic, the country is all set to give a run to the best of economies for their diversity and investment portfolio. Their women empowerment has jumped to 35% and their projects like Neom, Red Sea Project, Amala, etc. are gaining international recognition for the excellence of architecture and sustainability.

My articles documenting the same showcased my perspectives but made the readers question the authori-

ties who could have achieved such a status for Pakistan also, by exploring and utilizing the opportunities within the country through a consistent framework of policies. Questions are essential for progress for they chart the path forward. The consistency in policies not only needs to attract new investors but must support and facilitate the ones who have already chosen Pakistan. My recent talk sessions and podcasts propagated the same.

The primary challenges facing Pakistan are many and include political instability, noncompetitive and distorting trade regime, poor infrastructure, slow pace of privatization of state-owned enterprises, state bureaucracy, strict industrial licensing, price controls by the GOP, tax and tariff policies, inconsistent economic policies, poor intellectual property rights (IPR) enforcement, weak labor laws, the inadequacy of institutions, well-entrenched corruption, governmental regulations, and lack of harmonization of rules across the board. While stability and consistency are the keywords, my essay will be referring to Taxation, Privatization, Special Economic Zones (SEZ), the IT industry, and Pharmaceuticals as some of the main streams that I would want to focus on regarding their immense investment potential for Pakistan and which to the best of my capacity to solve riddles, lies underexplored and neglected.

Over/under assessment of liability or biases, insufficient reviews and analysis has created a small selective tax net that overburdens the salaried class and corporate indiscriminately. Out of the official population of 230 million, only 3 million tax filers pay for the rest. The unregistered but expanding retail sector stays exempted as does agriculture except for corporate farm-

ing of the dairy industry. Mega revenue-producing segments are exempted and corruption takes care of the rest of it. I was caught by the statement 'FBR sees Rs.1289bn tax gap for 2022' - this gap exists because of selective taxation. There is a dire need to expand the tax net instead of vertically increasing by including agriculture, especially the ownership of agricultural lands. We can look at the raised revenue for each fiscal year. Vertically piling more tax on already suppressed customers is going to complicate the issue more. Furthermore, foreign investors in Pakistan regularly complain that both federal and provincial tax regulations are difficult to navigate through, and tax assessments are questionable and non-transparent. Since 2013, the government has demanded advance tax payments from companies, which has further complicated business operations.

Why are we risking discouraging the investor?

Strengthening the local and enabling the foreign investor is the way to go forward and this brings us to the other glaring barrier of tedious and time-consuming approval processes. If the turnaround time is making the investor miss the train, he would rather catch it for another destination. A cumbersome and time-consuming approval process, involving multiple entities, and a plethora of paperwork that takes precious time away, can be alternatively managed through transparent digitization for quick implementation of the concept and setting the machine rolling.

When talking of Special Economic

Zones, CPEC is right at the top. Hibernating for a good six years, CPEC could have become a resource for major revenue-yielding industries, road transport, and IT corridors with the neighboring regions. Agri-Zones also await someone's attention. These are investment goldmines. We know for sure that food security is on priority for almost all gulf countries and Pakistan can be a powerful collaborative trade partner. In fact, as Chairman Board of Investment (BOI), I had initiated a good plan with the Saudi government and business houses were ready to bring in the investment. The plan of course fell prey to the consistent discontinuity of policies.

With the privatization of public sector enterprises, Pakistan can look at a quick recovery and long-term benefits in a short period. We will not need to chase a few billion US dollars in loans from the IMF or friendly countries, for we will have the capacity to generate revenue

beyond such figures. What prevents all this is the elite capture, especially in the power corridors of the twin cities. We must understand that the interest of the few has never served the national agenda and public money has many eligible targets other than PIA and Steel Mills that seem to be draining away the resources with no hope.

PTCL's case of transfer of four agreed-upon properties for FDI by Etisalat is still pending due to bureaucratic hurdles. PIA's Roosevelt - an attractive impressive hotel property that stands haunted today in Manhattan pleading for the revival of its glory seems like a perfect metaphor for this grave

economic situation. Ready investors to lease this estimated USD 3 billion property wait for the willingness of the state to resolve the issue. On the other hand privatization of Habib Bank, PTCL, Allied Bank, K-Electric, MCB, and UBL strengthened the corporate industry, illustrating mega opportunities for business and financial growth. The performance of the Privatization Commission has been dismal and has lacked any proactivity. There is an urgent need to analyze the industrial, corporate, and public sectors for more opportunities by weeding the dying or sick units and replacing them with potential privately owned entities.

Either we don't push the agenda or create multiple streams for the promotion of the same, giving way to collision and overlapping at the cost of time and quality. The creation of the Special Technology Zones Authority (STZA) for the IT industry is a good example of this blunder. The responsibility now lies divided and unaddressed. Like, Ignite (National Technology Fund) and Pakistan Software Export Board (PSEB), STZA should be a subsidiary of the IT and Telecom Ministry ensuring hierarchical progress and continuation of work without any conflict of interest.

Again, with BOI, we had developed a complete plan with China for importing technology for the pharmaceutical industry so that our raw material starts getting locally manufactured. That is also a dream awaiting realization. The present state of pharmaceuticals, with medicines going short, LC's not opening and imports stuck, is close to paralyzing what could be the strongest arm of exports next to IT for Pakistan.

Similarly, the Petrochemical Policy was meant to be signed, and closed

in April 2022. I was directly involved with this at the start. We are into February of 2023 and that alone proves my point. Time and again we have wasted opportunities, let the trains leave the station, ignore our muscle, and then to compound all this, chase foreign interest-based heavy loans. We have examples of countries like Nigeria crumbling under the interest payments and recently Sri Lanka. Are we planning to do the same?

For me, support of the local industry and foreign direct investment (FDI) are the two great avenues that can save us in the short term and build us in the long term. Looking at Pakistan's debt servicing and given its inelastic balance of payments position, I see an urgent need to boost industrial production and for that the mobilization of foreign resources is urgent. More borrowing will further complicate the payment schedules and large portfolio investments will create complexity. It is, therefore, essential to prioritize a clear path and scaffolding of policy structure that will streamline investments' portfolios for at least the next couple of decades irrespective of any political change.

Countries in the region, like Bangladesh, Malaysia, and Indonesia got in the race with the South Asian Tigers. Why has Pakistan not been able to succeed, despite liberalizing its economy, exchange rate, and a theoretical FDI regime-is the question that needs an answer. Is it a lack of vision alone, or corruption or simple incompetence, that is enabling a repetitive undermining of the country's resources and creating barriers to investments?

The author is former Minister of State & Chairman Board of Investment.

# Modi: I am not scared of you, says daughter of Yasin Malik

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Daughter of Hurriyat Kashmiri leader Yasin Malik, Raziyah Sultana, has expressed her strong resentment over persecution of children in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir at the hands of occupying forces.

In an exclusive podcast with Radio Pakistan, she regretted that the Kashmiri children are not being allowed to get education while pellet guns are also being used against them and their parents.

Raziyah Sultana said it is the mission of her life to protect the Kashmiri children and send them to schools. For this, she sought the support of Pakistani children.

Putting up a brave face, Raziyah Sultana emphatically stated that she is not scared of Modi. Rather, she said that Modi and India are scared of her



father Yasin Malik and that is why he has been incarcerated.

Raziyah Sultana said those languishing in jails in the illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir have committed no crime, but their struggle for right to self-determination is peaceful.

She said killing innocent Muslims is a crime and this must come to an end.

Raziyah Sultana also urged the world community including the United Nations to save the Kashmiri people from the cruel clutches of Modi, who wants to turn Kashmir into mini-India.

She said the Kashmiris should be given the right to self-determination. She was confident that the Kashmiri people will get independence very soon.

The daughter of Hurriyat leader was appreciative of the support extended by Pakistan to the oppressed Kashmiri people saying that Pakistan has always stood by the innocent people, Kashmir will become part of Pakistan.

The ten years old Raziyah Sultana also recalled childhood memories and the time she spent with her father saying that she misses her father Yasin Malik, very much, expressing the confidence that he will return soon. She said four years have passed since she last talked to her father on the telephone.

Raziyah Sultana also paid glowing tributes to the founding father Quaid-i-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah saying that he is the role model for us who spent the whole of his life for the sake of Pakistan.

# KC-EU to hold Candle Light Vigil in Brussels for solidarity with the oppressed Kashmiris

Sohail Anjum Malik

BRUSSELS/LONDON: Kashmir Council Europe (KC-EU) will organize an event of candle light vigil in Brussels, the capital of Belgium in order to express solidarity with oppressed people of Indian illegally Occupied Kashmir (IIOK).

The program will be arranged at 4 p.m. on Sunday, 5th February in connection with Kashmir Solidarity Day at European Square in front of Central Station in Brussels, the EU headquarters. A BBC's documentary about violence against Muslims in India and atrocities against the people of Jammu and Kashmir will also be shown on a wider screen through projector.

It should be noted that in this (BBC) documentary, with reference to an unpublished report of the British Foreign Ministry, it is stated that the current Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who was the Chief Minis-



tration of Gujarat before was responsible for creating an atmosphere of violence during the 2002 riots in Gujarat. More than a thousand people were killed in these riots, most of whom were Muslims. At the same time, many Muslim women were sexually assaulted under the plan and serious human rights violations were committed by the Gujarat's police. The film also talks about police violence during the imple-

mentation of the Indian controversial Citizenship Act in 2019.

The BBC's documentary raised questions about India's democratic system under the Narendra Modi government and the polarization of India on the basis of religion. The documentary also highlighted violations of the rights of Kashmiris. A Video about Kashmir would be also displayed on the wider screen on the occasion.

In a statement, Chairman Kashmir Council EU Ali Raza Syed said, we express solidarity with the oppressed people of Indian occupied Kashmir suffering from Indian brutalities for last seven decades.

By condemning the atrocities and genocide of Kashmiris committed by Indian Occupation forces, he paid great tribute to the brave people of Kashmir struggling for their right to self-determination.

Chairman KC-EU emphasized said, we will continue our support to the

people of Kashmir till suitable resolution of the Kashmir dispute. People of Kashmir are struggling peacefully for right to self-determination and there should be plebiscite under United Nations supervision in order to make clear political fate of the disputed territory of Jammu and Kashmir.

Chairman Kashmir Council EU pointed out that deployment of eight lakhs Indian troops in IIOK is a proof of brutal occupation as a large scale human rights violations are being committed by these occupation forces. Indian authorities are engaged to press the peaceful mass movement by use of force and brutalities specially massacre of the innocent Kashmiris.

Mr Ali Raza Syed demanded that UN and EU should play their role for a peaceful resolution of the Kashmir issue. He also urged the Human Rights Organizations to pressurize India to stop severe violations of human rights in IIOK.

## Kashmir Solidarity Day: Messages of President & PM of AJK

Abdul Majeed Tahir

MUZAFFARABAD: President Azad Jammu and Kashmir Barrister Sultan Mahmood Chaudhry and Prime Minister Sardar Tanveer Ilyas Khan have said that Kashmir Solidarity Day is the symbol of an everlasting social, cultural and religious relationship between the people of Kashmir and Pakistan. In their separate messages released on the eve of Kashmir Day, the duo while reiterating their commitment to Kashmir cause said that the government and people of the liberated territory would continue their all out support to the Kashmiris' legitimate struggle until they achieve their cherished goal of freedom from India. Referring to Pakistan's continued support to Kashmiris' legitimate struggle they said, "The Pakistani state and its people have supported the Kashmiri people through everything thick and thin". Barrister Sultan Mahmood Chaudhry in his message said that Kashmir day being celebrated annually speaks volumes about Pakistan's commitment towards Kashmir. Praising the people of the occupied Kashmir for their courage, the president said, "The Kashmiri people have stood their ground with courage and did not bow even an inch from their motto". Urging India to shun its traditional policy of intransigence, Barrister Chaudhry said that instead of creating hurdles India must create a conducive atmosphere to resolve the lingering dispute through negotiations. He said that the Kashmiri people consider the state of Jammu and Kashmir as an indivisible entity. Stressing the need for resolving the Kashmir issue in line with the UNSC resolutions, the president said that it was imperative to resolve the long drawn conflict in accordance with the wishes and aspirations of the Kashmiri people.

In his message the AJK premier said, that the government of Azad Kashmir would continue to play its constitutional role to promote Kashmir cause at world level besides highlighting the woeful plight of the Kashmiris. "I assure my Kashmiri brothers that the people of Pakistan and Azad Kashmir are behind you and will highlight the Kashmir issue at the diplomatic level". Praising the sacrifices rendered by the Kashmiris, he said that the day was not far when the people of Occupied Kashmir would achieve their cherished goal. He said that the steps taken by the Indian government before and after August 5, 2019 have been completely rejected by the people of the occupied Kashmir. While condemning India for the serious violations of human rights by its forces in Occupied Kashmir the PM demand the United Nations to stop the human rights violations and play its due role to implement the UNSC resolutions to get the dispute resolved peacefully. The PM also thanked the people and Government of Pakistan, for celebrating Kashmir day in solidarity of the people of Kashmir.

He said that Kashmiris have full faith in Pakistan's foreign policy. "We believe that Pakistan is our only advocate in the world who has raised the voice of the subjugated Kashmiris at every forum", the PM said adding that Pakistan wanted peace in the region while India was hellbent on destroying peace by sponsoring terrorism in the region. "The extremist actions of the Indian government have threatened the peace of the region", he added.

## President AJK seeks Biden administration's proactive role to resolve Kashmir dispute



Abdul Majeed Tahir

WASHINGTON: President Azad Jammu and Kashmir Barrister Sultan Mahmood Chaudhry has said that the United States should play its role in resolving the lingering Kashmir dispute that has been a major cause and consequence of rights abuses in the region. The president said this in a detailed meeting with Jason McClellan, the top official of the State Department of the US Ministry of Foreign Affairs, in Washington DC today. Speaking on the occasion Barrister Chaudhry said that it was high time that the world, particularly the United States, should play its role in granting the Kashmiri people their right to self-determination guaranteed to them by no less an authority than the United Nations. While briefing Jason McClellan about the prevailing political and human rights situations in the Indian occupied Kashmir, Barrister Chaudhry said that India government's 5th August actions has pushed the region deeper into an unending chaos and uncertainty.

President Azad Jammu and Kashmir Barrister Sultan Mahmood Chaudhry will also lead a rally from the Indian High Commission in London to the British Prime Minister's residence, 10 Downing Street on 5th February. The rally being organized by the Kashmir Peace Forum International would be attended by the members of Kashmiri and Pakistani diaspora community settled in the United Kingdom (UK) to express solidarity with their Kashmiri brethren in IOK. President Azad Jammu and Kashmir Barrister Sultan Mahmood Chaudhry has appealed to Kashmiris living in Europe, America and the world to show solidarity with the people of Occupied Kashmir on the occasion of February.

## China balloon soaring over US deflates hopes for diplomatic thaw

WASHINGTON: The political uproar over a suspected Chinese spy balloon drifting over the United States did not just derail a planned visit to Beijing by the top US diplomat, it also threatens to upset attempts by both countries to steady an increasingly rocky relationship.

The reaction in the United States to what appears to be an ill-timed spying mission will have lingering consequences for efforts to stabilise ties — already near historic lows. Some US lawmakers are demanding that President Joe Biden, a Democrat, hold China to account for what officials are calling an unacceptable violation of US sovereignty.

US Secretary of State Antony Blinken, who postponed a trip that was to begin on Friday, said he would be prepared to visit Beijing "when conditions allow," but the administration could be hard-pressed to quickly revive the trip short of China offering up serious gestures of goodwill, policy analysts said. Daniel Russel, the top US diplomat for Asia under then-President Barack Obama, said China's "laughable alibi" that the aircraft was an errant weather balloon, didn't help.

"This incident has soured the atmosphere and hardened positions and there's no guarantee the two sides can successfully resurrect the 'Bali' momentum," Russel said, referring to the November meeting between Biden and Chinese leader Xi Jinping in Indonesia where they agreed to increase communications.

Ties between the superpowers have frayed over the past few years and sank to their worst in decades last August, when the then US House of Representatives Speaker Nancy Pelosi visited Taiwan, prompting Beijing to conduct military drills near the Chinese-claimed island.

Since then, the Biden administration has said it hopes to build a "floor" for the relationship and ensure that rivalry does not spiral into conflict.

## Traffic Jam

ISLAMABAD: A view of massive traffic jam due to heavy traffic during construction work of I.J.P road in the Federal Capital.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

## Malaysian official says Islamophobia should be criminal offence

A senior Malaysian official said on Friday that Islamophobia must be recognised as a crime and demanded that Muslim nations respond strongly to cases involving the desecration of the Holy Quran.

"Anything that is Islamophobic can actually be regarded as something which is criminal in nature. So, much like anti-Semitism is a criminal offence in many other countries," Abdul Razak Ahmad, a special representative of Malaysia's foreign minister, told Anadolu in an interview.

Ahmad complimented Turkey for its firm response to a recent wave of Quran desecrations in Europe that incited the anger of Muslims all over the world. He called for making Islamophobia a criminal charge, especially in Muslim countries. Ahmad cited one such attempt in Norway, where officials revoked a previous permit for a Quran burning after receiving a warning from Ankara.

# Kashmir Solidarity Week mark at Cafe East

Arif Chaudhry

OLDHAM: Jammu Kashmir Movement for Self-determination International started the celebration of up Kashmir Solidarity Week with an event at Cafe East in Oldham.

Members of British Parliament Debbie Abraham, Andrew Gowan, and Azad Kashmir Legislative Assembly member Prof. Taqdees Gilani, Founder and Chairman of Jammu Kashmir Self-Determination Movement Raja Najabat Hussain and Consul General Manchester Tariq Wazir, Chaudhry Altaf Shahid Sidhu Chaudhry Muhammad Bashir, Ratwi, Councillor Naila Sharif, Councillor Naila Ibrahim-Nagmana Kanwal Sheikh-Imtiaz Sheikh-Subia Khurshed Raja-Yasmin Alam-Councillor Shahid Mushtaq-Zeeshan-Javed Tariq-Harry Botha-Councillor Sabiha Khan and the leaders of the Tehreek Haq Khuda Aradit International and the leading figures of the community.

Dr. Muhammad Yunus Faraz was blessed with the privilege of reciting the Holy Quran. On this occasion, Member of British Parliament and Chairperson of All Parties Parliamentary Group Debbie Abraham said that she has been campaigning for Kash-



mir for the last six years and expresses full solidarity with the Kashmiri nation.

Member Azad Kashmir Legislative Assembly Professor Taqdis Geelani said that we will expose Indian atrocities in Occupied Kashmir, especially the ill-treatment of women and a whole young generation is a victim of Indian aggression.

Members of the British Parliament

and Labor Friends of Kashmir Chairperson Andrew Gowan said that we stand in complete solidarity with the Kashmiris and want to convince the international powers that they should pay attention to the non-fulfillment of Kashmiris' demand for self-determination and human rights violations.

Consul General Tariq Wazir said that the leaders of India promised the right of self-determination to

the Kashmiri nation in the spirit of the UN resolutions, but it has not yet been implemented, should be shaken. Deputy Lord Mayor Councillor Yasmin Dar said that one day the Kashmiris will get the reward for their sacrifices and Kashmir will be free.

Coming out, Chaudhry Altaf Shahid Sidhu said that complete solidarity with Kashmiris was also expressed along with extensive discussion about Indian atrocities on Kashmiris. Raja Najabat Hussain, the founder and chairman of the International Self-Determination Movement, thanked all the guests and said that the people of all the schools of thought involved in the event have expressed their determination that the violations of human rights and the rights of Kashmiris in Occupied Kashmir will be stopped. Self-determination will continue to raise its voice in unison until they are given their birthright of self-determination.

Jammu and Kashmir Movement for Self-Determination International is playing a leading role in highlighting the Kashmir issue at the global level and playing a key role in getting it resolved immediately.

**Gov't departments are a major obstacle in promotion of solar energy**

**Commerce Reporter**

ISLAMABAD: Former President of Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) Dr. Shahid Rasheed Butt on Saturday said the power sector has not been able to become sustainable despite decades of efforts.

This sector has become a liability that is wasting trillions of rupees annually and has become a big problem for the public, government, and business community, he said.

Shahid Rasheed Butt said that the government should promote renewable energy to reduce the oil import bill and losses in the power sector.

Nobody, including industrialists, should get subsidized electricity as it increases wastage and all the consumers should be billed, he added.

The business leader said that financial assistance should be given to poor sections of society instead of subsidies.

He said that tariffs should be altered in a way that electricity should be cheaper when it is in surplus in the system and costly when the system suffers from a deficit.

Shahid Rashid Butt said that the population of Hawaii, the 50th state of America, is two million, but the number of solar panels in it is double that of Pakistan.

He said that there are 40 million households in Pakistan, while the number of solar installations is only 18,000 the reasons for which are lack of incentives, lack of credit facilities, changing policies, and a complicated tax system.

He quoted a World Bank report in which it has been claimed that solar energy can meet the growing demand for electricity, it can play an important role in reducing transmission and distribution losses and it can reduce corruption.

Concerned government bodies are hindering the spread of solar energy due to which people prefer UPS and generators, which increases the consumption of imported fuel, he lamented.

The government also wants to promote electric cars and electric bikes, but they would be charged with electricity produced from imported fossil fuels.

He said that Pakistan's electricity grid has repeatedly failed to meet the needs of the people, it has increased business costs and resulted in load shedding and blackouts.

It has resulted in great public inconvenience and losses to the business community and it is considered a big obstacle in the way of foreign investment.

If the government continues its current energy policies, the country's problems will continue to increase and the people will continue to lose up to thirteen billion dollars annually. The current system is not able to fulfill the needs of the 21st century, he said.

**Bank of Japan's unrealized loss on govt bonds widens to \$68bn**



TOKYO: The Bank of Japan's (BOJ) unrealised losses on its holdings of government bonds amounted to about 8.8 trillion yen (\$68 billion) at the end of December last year, the central bank's governor Haruhiko Kuroda has said.

During a parliamentary session, Kuroda said that the book value of BOJ's government bond holdings at the end of December 2022 reached 564.1 trillion yen, while their market value was 555.3 trillion yen, reports Xinhua news agency.

The unrealized losses have increased roughly 10 times within three months compared to the end of September when it stood at 874.9 billion yen, as government bond yields jumped on expectations that the BOJ would tighten its monetary policy.

At its policy meeting in December, the BOJ announced a shift in its ultra-loose monetary policy, raising the yield on the 10-year Japanese government bond as high as 0.5 per cent from a previous cap of 0.25 per cent.

Following the move, the BOJ has been stepping up bond buying to prevent the 10-year yield from breaching its newly-set 0.5 per cent ceiling.

The unrealized losses will have no immediate impact as the BOJ has adopted a policy of holding government bonds until maturity, Kuroda said, adding that they are however paying close attention to the central bank's fiscal health.

Experts here warned that if unrealized losses increase and the market begins to feel uneasy about the BOJ's financial condition, interest rates and exchange rates could be affected.

**State Life Insurance Annual Convention**

**SLIC announces best ever business results in its 50 year history**

**Naveed Ahmad Khan**

BHURBAN : On February 4th, 2023, State Life Insurance Corporation of Pakistan (SLIC) held its Annual Marketing Convention in Pearl Continental Bhurban to congratulate its vigorous workforce and determined management team; as well as to celebrate the strongest annual results since its inception. Despite challenges posed by macro-economic and market volatility, SLIC delivered the strongest business numbers in its history and grew its premium revenue to Rs. 279 billion, increasing by 64% from last year.

New business: 173 billion increasing by over 161% from 2021

Individual Life – Highest ever premium collection since inception

Group Life and Health – Highest ever new business since inception

**Earnings:**

Premium Income: Over Rs. 279 billion collected – increased by 64% from 2021

Investment Income: Over Rs. 122 billion – Investment yield 10.5%

**Payouts:**

Claims: Over Rs. 167 billion in claims paid to policyholders – Highest ever since inception



Bonus allocated to policyholder: Over Rs. 95 billion – Highest ever since inception

**Growth:**

Assets: Over Rs. 1.56 trillion – increased by 15% from 2021

Pak Life Fund: Over Rs. 1.4 trillion – increased by 15% from 2021

The convention held at Pearl Continental

Hotel in Bhurban focused on the developments made under Shoaib Javed Hussain, Chairman of State Life and speaking at the occasion; he reiterated, "In any country, the existence of a vibrant and growing insurance industry is essential for the growth of its economy. State Life has surpassed last year's results and delivered exceptional results in 2022;

making SLICs 50th year a truly golden year. This has only been achieved due to the dedication of our professional workforce, across our officers, staff, and sales force cadres as they implemented the innovative vision and competitive strategy of our dynamic corporate leadership. Insurance becomes even more important during challenging times and difficult circumstances. Behind these incredible business results lie the true essence of our work, which is to provide security and protection to our policyholders. Whether it is for health, saving, children's education or retirement, State Life is a partner in an individual's life journey, and we are here to be their support in making key life decisions. I want to thank our policyholders, business partners, and shareholders for putting their trust in State Life; I am confident that with their support we will continue to lead the evolving life and health insurance landscape"

SLIC's dynamic and visionary business strategies focused on technology and customer centric services continues to drive the organization. SLIC's revitalized policies are designed to fit the needs of every citizen and wider diaspora of Pakistan, making them the leaders in the insurance industry.

**Dal Mash**

LAHORE: A vendor is preparing split peas (Dal Mash) in sunshine at his workplace in Akbari Mandi in Provincial Capital.



Photo: Online

**IMF conditions to shrink the economy**

**Tariq Khattak**

ISLAMABAD: Former Vice President of FPCCI Atif Ikram Sheikh on Saturday expressed grave concern over the fall in exports which is not a good sign for the troubled economy.

Political instability and economic slowdown pulled exports down 15.4 percent to 2.2 billion in January 2023 against \$2.61 billion in the same month last year, he said.

Pakistan exports in October 2022 were down 3.25 percent year-on-year, in November 17.6 percent, in December 16.3 percent, and now in January, 15.4 percent over the corresponding month of last year, he added.

Atif Ikram Sheikh who has also served as Chairman PVMA said in a statement that the trade deficit shrank 32 percent to \$19.63 billion in the first seven months of the current fiscal, as imports were curtailed.

Textile exports have substantially declined for a fourth consecutive month in January, dropping 12.4 percent as compared to the same month last year.

Textile exports dropped to \$1.36 billion in January 2023, as compared to \$1.55



billion recorded in January 2022.

Since October 2022, textile exports have been at a nosedive. The exports declined 15 percent in October 22, then in November 22 by 18 percent, December 22 by 16 percent, and now in January 2023, the exports went down by 12.4 percent.

The double-digit decline in its exports is worrisome for the government and the economy, as the sector contributes around

60 percent to the country's total export proceeds, he informed.

He said that the country is facing a balance-of-payments crisis, as Pakistan has been spending more on imports than exports, running down its stock of foreign currency and weighing on the rupee's value.

The rupee recently dropped to new lows against the US dollar after authorities uncapped its value in the interbank market to meet one of the conditions put down by the IMF, he added.

The business leader said that the government is also dealing with rampant inflation. In January 2023, it reached a 48-year high of 27.6 percent. On January 23, the central bank raised the policy rate by 100 basis points to 17 per cent which was the highest since 1998 to help stabilise the economy.

The policy rate hike by the central bank has made bank financing much costlier, resulting in the contraction of industrial growth, business activities and exports.

Sheikh said that now the IMF conditions which will result in costly electricity and other inputs will further contract the economy.

**Rupee massive fall keeps damaging economy amid tough IMF talks: PIAF**

**Bureau Report**

LAHORE: (Feb 04) The Pakistan Industrial and Traders Associations Front (PIAF) on Saturday said that massive fall of rupee value continued to damage the economy, as the local currency has hit a new all-time low at Rs276 mark against US dollar in the interbank market amidst uncertainty regarding the outcome of the ongoing talks between Pakistan and the International Monetary Fund, devaluing cumulatively by almost 17% or Rs45 during the last week.

PIAF Chairman Faheem ur Rehman Saigol said that there was a complete breakdown of economic policymaking, as the country's fiscal policy had become subservient to monetary and exchange rate policies. He argued that this



devaluation of the currency was dictated by the IMF through prior actions, as uncertainty regarding the timing of inflows of foreign currency has continued to impact the rupee-dollar exchange rate.

He said that the monetary tightening and exchange rate depreciation resulted in higher inflation, public debt and debt servicing. The empirical evidence showed that the one percent monetary tightening hiked the inflationary pressure by 1.3 percent in the case of Pakistan, he added.

**Pakistan, Afghanistan sign third round of Concenas on Avoidance of Double Taxation**

**Commerce Reporter**

ISLAMABAD: The delegations of Pakistan and Afghanistan met at the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) House for the third round of negotiations on the Convention for the Avoidance of Double Taxation between Pakistan and Afghanistan.

The Afghan delegation was headed by Nida Muhammad Seddiqi, Revenue Legal Services Director, while Sajidullah Siddiqui, Director General, International Tax Operations, FBR headed the Pakistan side, said a press release issued here.

Both delegations thoroughly deliberated over all the outstanding issues identified during the second round

of negotiations held from 27th-30th December, 2021.

The negotiations were conducted in a friendly atmosphere where both sides presented their viewpoints. After a detailed discussion, the two sides agreed over a consensus draft of the Convention for the Avoidance of Double Taxation between Pakistan and Afghanistan. The agreed draft was initiated by the heads of the two delegations.

In the concluding ceremony, Chairman FBR Mr. Asim Ahmad thanked the Afghan delegation for visiting Pakistan and expressed optimism that the Convention will further strengthen economic relations between the two brotherly countries.

**ICCI fears FX Crisis may bring industrial sector to a grinding halt**

**Commerce Reporter**

ISLAMABAD : Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) said that Pakistan's foreign exchange reserves held by the State Bank of Pakistan, which were over US\$ 16 billion at the end of January 2022, have tumbled down to US\$ 3.09 billion as of January 27, 2023. He said this precarious situation of forex reserves is creating a lot of concerns in the business community as the FX crisis may bring the industrial sector to a grinding halt and unleash a new wave of unemployment.

Ahsan Bakhtawari said that many industries including textile, pharma-

ceutical, cooking oil & ghee, automobile, poultry, light engineering, chemicals & plastics have to import inputs and raw materials for their manufacturing and assembling activities, but import consignments of many industries are help up at ports due to shortage of foreign exchange and many industries are unable to import the required inputs and raw materials due to which they are facing closure of their manufacturing activities. He emphasized that the government should immediately start consultation with the private sector including the major chambers of commerce and industry to evolve a new strategy in order to steer the economy out of the current challenges.



Faad Waheed, Senior Vice President ICCI said that the economic activity has already come to a standstill with

rates, and super tax imposed on existing taxpayers. He said that another major threat to the economy comes from the poor performance of the power sector as its circular debt has reached Rs2.9 trillion. He said that any disruption in energy to businesses and industries would further reduce the commercial and industrial activities.

Engr. Muhammad Azhar ul Islam Zafar, Vice President ICCI said that the implementation of tough conditions being pushed by the IMF, would create more difficulties for the business community as well as the common man. He said that the business community should be taken on board on this issue to save businesses from further troubles.

# Arrangements for colourful opening ceremony of PSL in progress

**Bureau Report**

MULTAN: The colorful opening ceremony of the 8th edition of Pakistan Super League will be held on February 13 at Multan Cricket Stadium as star players from across the world will join the mega event.

Multan Waste Management Company (MWMC) has been entrusted with the task of decorating the stadium by maintaining cleanliness, said CEO MWMC Shakeel Ahmed Bhatti during his visit to the site.



He stated that hosting the opening ceremony was a big honor for Multan. He stated that exemplary arrangements would be made for the mega event.

Besides this, the whole city would be ornamented. It is pertinent to mention that Multan Cricket Stadium will host five matches of the Pakistan Super League.

Multan Waste Management Company started taking all possible measures to beautify and maintain cleanliness, said Bhatti.

# PCB announces schedule of age-group trials

**Tahir Amin Malik**

LAHORE: Pakistan Cricket Board today announced details of U13, U16 and U19 trials for the selection of National U13, National U16 and Inter-District U19 teams.

The 16-team 30-over-a-side National U13 tournament will commence from 1 March, the 16-team 50-over National U16 will begin on 1 March and 104-team Inter-District U19 will be held from 1 May.

Players born on or after 1 September 2010 will be eligible for selection in the U13 squads, while players born on or after 1 September 2007 will be eligible for selection in the U16 sides. According to the plan, open trials will be held and six best players

from each district will be selected for the final regional trials before the 16-player squads are selected.

For the Inter-District U19, players born on or after 1 September 2004 will be eligible for selection. Through open trials, 35 best cricketers from each district/zone will be selected for final trials before 15-player squads are finalised.

The following 16 regions (districts in brackets) will participate in the three age-group tournaments. Schedule of trials is available here:

Abbottabad Region (Abbottabad, Buner, Dir Upper, Haripur, Mansehra, Mardan and Swabi)

AJK Region (Bagh, Kotli, Mirpur, Muzaffarabad and Poonch)

Bahawalpur Region (Bahawalnagar, Bahawalpur, Layyah, Muzaffargarh, Pakpattan, Rahim Yar Khan and Rajanpur)

Faisalabad Region (Bhakkar, Faisalabad, Jhang, Kasur, Mianwali and Sargodha)

FATA Region (Bajour, Bannu, DI Khan, Khyber, Kohat, Kurram, Mohmand, North Waziristan, South Waziristan and Tank)

Hyderabad Region (Badin, Benazirabad, Hyderabad, Jamshoro, Mirpurkhas, Sanghar and Thatta)

Islamabad Region (Central Zone, East Zone, Gilgit Baltistan, North Zone and West Zone)

Karachi Region (Zones I - VII)

Lahore Region (East, North and West Zones)

Larkana Region (Dadu, Jacobabad, Khairpur, Larkana, Shikarpur and Sukkur)

Multan Region (DG Khan, Khanewal, Lodharan, Multan, Okara, Sahiwal and Vehari)

D.M. Jamali Region (Jaffarabad, Lasbela, Loralai, Naseerabad and Sibi)

Peshawar Region (Charsadda, Dir Lower, Nowshera, Peshawar and Swat)

Quetta Region (Chaghi, Gwadar, Kalat, Khuzdar, Killa Abdullah, Noshki, Panjgur, Pishin, Quetta and Turbat)

Rawalpindi Region (Attock, Chakwal, Jhelum and Rawalpindi)

Sialkot Region (Gujranwala, Gujrat, Hafizabad, Mandi Bahauddin, Narowal, Sheikhpura and Sialkot)

## I try to cash powerplay in T20s,' Sharjeel on his approach as opener



**A Sports -**

LAHORE: Left-handed aggressive Karachi Kings opener Sharjeel Khan opened up on his approach towards the batting powerplay in T20s ahead of the upcoming eighth edition of the Pakistan Super League (PSL).

Kings' Sharjeel, who is widely known for his ruthless attack with the bat on the opposition, thinks that the batting powerplay in T20 cricket is very crucial as it is pivotal in the outcome of the game.

"I believe 70 to 80 per cent of the match is defined by how the first six overs go. What I have learned over the years that a team which has the most boundaries wins the match, so I try to milk the first six overs," Sharjeel was quoted saying in a statement released by the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) on Saturday.

"I am also looking to lay a solid platform for my side and if I continue to bat after the completion of the first six overs then I look to make sure that I carry that momentum.

"It is important not to forget the basics and try to gauge the conditions. So usually, I do try to take four balls or an over as every day is a new day and conditions are different. Whether I am facing a spinner or a pacer, the plan remains the same, examine the conditions and then go for the attack and this often proves to be beneficial for the team as well."

## PSL 2023: When will the new trophy be unveiled?

LAHORE: All eyes will be on Pakistan Super League's (PSL) newly designed trophy for the upcoming eighth edition — which is set to start on February 13 and conclude on March 19.

As per The News, the trophy will be put on display on February 9 in Lahore at the Shalimar Bagh (Garden). All the captains of the teams and Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) Management Committee Chairman Najam Sethi will be there at the unveiling ceremony.

"Yes, the newly designed trophy will be presented to the winners of the eighth edition. The one that was used and presented to winners of the last seven editions will no longer be there. Now a freshly crafted trophy having a better look will be unveiled on February 9 at the Shalimar Garden. Multan Sultan and Lahore Qalandars captains will be available. Efforts are being made to have all the captains for the trophy unveiling ceremony," a PCB official when contacted said.

## Women T-20 Cricket World Cup Unveiling Trophy ceremony



**Sports Desk**

SOUTH AFRICA: The Women T-20 Cricket World Cup Unveiling Trophy ceremony was held at South Africa Newlands (Cape Town) where 10 participating Countries women's cricket team Captains were present on this occasion. From Pakistan Bismah Maroof is leading the Pakistan Women cricket team in T-20 Women Cricket World Cup.

The Pakistan women cricket team will play the first match of the Women T-20 cricket world cup against Arch Arrival India Women cricket team on 12th February at Newlands Cape Town, While inaugural match of the Women T-20 cricket world cup will be played between Host South Africa and Sri Lanka at same venue. The final will be played on 26th February at Newlands Cape Town.

## Balochistan Police appoints Naseem Shah as an honorary DSP



**A Sports -**

QUETTA: The Balochistan Police on Saturday appointed the right-arm pacer Naseem Shah as the honorary Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP).

According to the details, a ceremony was held here at the IG office to confer the rank of DSP to the right-arm young pacer.

The IG Balochistan Police Abdul Khaliq Sheikh and Additional Chief Secretary Interior Zahid Saleem attended the ceremony and presented the pacer with stars on his uniform.

It is pertinent to mention that Naseem represented Pakistan in 15 Tests, five ODIs and 16 T20Is and picked up 74 wickets thus far in his budding international career.

The right-arm pacer will represent Quetta Gladiators in the upcoming eighth edition of the Pakistan Super League (PSL), scheduled to commence on February 13.

Meanwhile, another Pakistan pacer Shaheen Shah Afridi was honoured by Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KPK) Police as he was appointed as the ambassador of goodwill in July 2022.

## Ronaldo breaks duck after lucrative Saudi move

**Sports Desk**

AL-HASA: Cristiano Ronaldo got off the mark for his new Saudi paymasters Al Nassr on Friday with a stoppage-time penalty that rescued a 2-2 away draw against Al Fateh.

The Portuguese, who turns 38 on Sunday, buried the spot-kick in the 93rd minute for a point that left the Riyadh club joint top of the Saudi Pro League with a game in hand over Al Shabab.

Ronaldo broke his duck in his third appearance, after he fired blanks in the January 22 league win over Ettifaq and in this week's Super Cup loss to Al Ittihad.

Days before his Al Nassr debut, he scored twice for a Saudi composite team in an entertaining 5-4 loss to a Paris Saint-Germain side featuring his great rival Lionel Messi.

The five-time Ballon d'Or winner, who holds the all-time records for Champions League and international goals, will bank more than 400 million euros for his surprise move to Saudi, according to sources close to Al Nassr.

The giant sum includes 200 million euros for promoting Saudi Arabia's expected joint bid to host the 2030 World Cup, the sources told AFP.

Ronaldo has become a figurehead for the conservative kingdom's push to improve its reputation through sports — a process that has drawn accusations of "sportswashing", or trying to sanitise its human rights record.

## Mini Marathon

HYDERABAD: Students take part in the Mini Marathon during 5th Sindh College Games 2023, organized by Kohsar Boys College at Kohsar road, in the city.



Photo: Online

# Scorchers beat Heat to win fifth Big Bash League title

**Sports Desk**

PERTH: Teenager Cooper Connolly's big hitting at the death and skipper Ashton Turner's heroic 53 saw Perth Scorchers beat Brisbane Heat to win an unprecedented fifth Twenty20 Big Bash League title on Saturday.

Their fireworks propelled them to 178-5 and a nail-biting five-wicket win with four balls left in front of a record 53,886 parochial fans at Perth Stadium after Brisbane put on 175-7.

It was a successful title defence by a side who beat the Sydney Sixers in last season's decider, with Saturday's win securing a fifth trophy in only the competition's 12th year.

"It's a surreal feeling. I've played a lot of games of cricket but you never know how it will pan out," said man-of-the-match Turner after his 32-ball knock.

"We are in rarified air at the moment, we have a lot of guys in form and that's not always the case. A lot of guys have contributed to wins throughout the season."

A victory looked highly unlikely when Turner was run out after a horror mix-up



with Nick Hobson, leaving them needing 39 needed off 19 balls.

But young gun Connolly smashed 25 off 11 balls to turn the game on its head.

He crunched 18 of those from a James Bazley over to leave them needing 20 off the final 12 balls.

Hobson then smashed a huge six followed by a no-ball five in the last over to secure the victory.

"At 19 (years old) to have this crowd cheer for me, couldn't have asked for anything better. It's a dream come true," said left-hander Connolly. "I had full confidence in myself."

The clash culminated a season marked by thrilling finishes, controversial

and teammate Ashton Agar who are also preparing for the four-Test Border-Gavaskar series starting on Thursday in Nagpur.

Heat skipper Jimmy Peirson won the toss and batted first with Josh Brown coming out with all guns blazing, smacking 25 off the opening 11 balls.

But his luck soon ran out and after the opening barrage, the Scorchers restricted Brisbane to 86-1 by the halfway mark.

Jason Behrendorff removed Sam Heazlett for 34, snapping a dangerous 79-run stand with Nathan McSweeney, then Peirson for three in the same over.

McSweeney fell for 41 before Max Bryant smashed an aggressive 31 from 14 balls to ensure a handy total.

In reply, Scorchers opener Stephen Eskinazi made a brisk 21 before a schoolboy run out, then Michael Nesar clung on to a high catch to remove Cameron Bancroft for 15.

When Aaron Hardie went for 17 in the following over, they were wobbling at 54-3.

But Turner and Josh Inglis put on a high-quality 80 in 52 balls before Connolly and Hobson sealed the win.

# DG Sports Punjab Tariq Qureshi inaugurated Sports Gala

**Sports Reporter**

LAHORE: Director General Sports Punjab Muhammad Tariq Qureshi inaugurated the Sports Gala of Beacon House Schools System at Punjab Stadium on Saturday. He was chief guest on this occasion.

Director Admin Syed Umair Hassan, School Principal Tahmina Lodhi, PRO Ms Noshaba, top sports personalities and a large number of male and female students were also present at the Sports Gala of Beacon House Schools System's.

Talking on this occasion, Director General Sports Punjab Muhammad Tariq Qureshi said that promotion of sports is our mission. "Sports Board Punjab has established different sports to bring out new sports talent in Punjab". DG Sports Punjab Muhammad Tariq Qureshi further said that expert coaches are imparting



modern training at our sports academies.

DG Sports Punjab informed that in order to find new talent, the largest Talent Hunt Programme in the country's history has been conducted in the educational institutions of Punjab.

DG Sports Punjab Muhammad Tariq Qureshi opened the sports gala on this occasion.

The athletes participated in athletics, judo, karate and other events during Sports Gala of Beacon House Schools System's.