



# Daily The Spokesman

A Leading National Daily



فرمان رسول ﷺ

ابو عثمان نے بیان کیا اور ان سے ابو ہریرہ رضی اللہ عنہ نے کہ میرے نسل میں اللہ علیہ وسلم نے مجھے ہر صیغہ کی تین تائیدوں میں روز رکھنے کی وصیت فرمائی تھی۔ اسی طرح پناہ دہشت کی دو رکعتوں کی بھی وصیت فرمائی تھی اور اس کی بھی کہ سونے سے پہلے ہی میں وتر پڑھ لیا کروں۔

(بخاری، حدیث نمبر 1981)  
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RAWALPINDI

## Kashmiris fighting against illegal Indian occupation

Chief Minister Balochistan Abdul Qudus Bizenjo on Sunday said the Kashmiri people are fighting for independence and their right to self-determination from the usurping occupation of India. In a message issued on Kashmir Solidarity Day, the CM said thousands of young men, children, elderly and women have sacrificed their lives in the just struggle of Kashmir.



## Plight of Kashmiris worsens since India's revocation of article 370: Dr Mahathir

Dr. Mahathir Bin Mohamad, former Prime Minister of Malaysia and a renowned global statesman Sunday said the Kashmir Solidarity Day reminded the world that the plight of people of Kashmir had worsened since India's unilateral revocation of article 370 and 35A of its constitution in August 2019.

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## PM Visits AJK

MUZAFFARABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif, Prime Minister of AJ&K Sardar Tanvir Ilyas, Speaker AJ&K legislative Assembly Chaudhary Anwar Ul Haq and senior Federal Ministers in a group photo at Kashmir Monument on Sunday.



Photo: PID

## Lasting solution to J&K dispute possible only in accordance with UNSC resolutions: President

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi has said that Pakistan consistently maintained that a lasting solution to the Jammu and Kashmir dispute was possible only in accordance with the relevant UN Security Council Resolutions and wishes of the Kashmiri people.

"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," the president said in a message on the occasion of Kashmir Solidarity Day being observed on February 5.

"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," he stressed.

## President, PM, Chairman Senate express condolences over death of Pervez Musharraf

City Reporter

ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi and Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Sunday expressed their condolences over the death of former president Gen. (ret'd) Pervez Musharraf.

The president and the prime minister also expressed their sympathies with the bereaved family, President Secretariat Press Wing and PM Office Media Wing, in their separate press releases said.

The president and prime minister also prayed for the high ranks of the departed soul and for the bereaved family to bear the loss with fortitude.

The former president passed away in Dubai on Sunday morning where he was hospitalized due to a rare disease called amyloidosis.

Gen. (Ret'd) Pervez Musharraf, 79-year-old had served as president of Pakistan during 2001 and 2008. Later, he founded the All Pakistan Muslim League in 2010.

President, PM express con-

lences over death of Pervez Musharraf

Senate Chairman Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani also expressed his deepest sorrow and grief over the sad demise of former President Gen (Ret'd) Pervez Musharraf.

In a condolence message, the Chairman expressed his sympathies to the bereaved family saying, he shares his grief with the family members of Pervez Musharraf also.

The Chairman Senate prayed to Allah Almighty to raise his ranks and grant courage to Musharraf's family to bear this shock with courage and patience.

Senate Deputy Chairman Mirza Muhammad Afridi, Leader of Opposition Senator Dr. Shahzad Wasim have also expressed their heartfelt sympathies to the family of the deceased in their separate condolence messages on the death of former President General (Ret'd) Pervez Musharraf. He prayed to Allah Almighty for forgiveness and exaltation of the deceased.

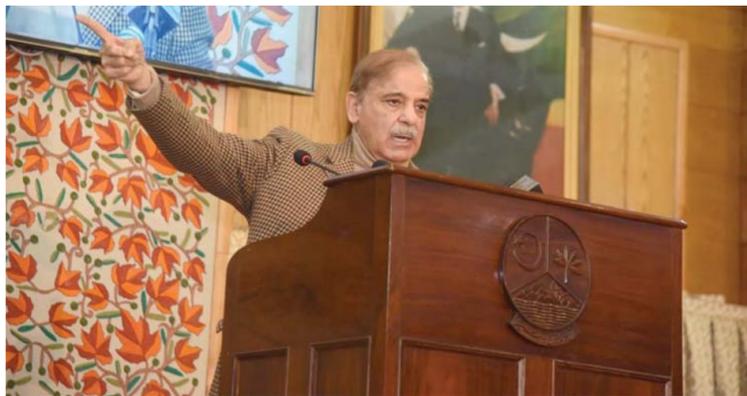
## PM Shehbaz Sharif for unity to infuse vigour, strength to Kashmir cause

Abdul Majeed Tahir

MUZAFFARABAD: Prime Minister (PM) Shehbaz Sharif on Sunday stressed the forging of unity and solidarity by shunning all the political differences which would further infuse vigour and strength into the Kashmir cause.

Addressing a special session of Azad Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly (AJKL) on the occasion of 'Kashmir Solidarity Day', the prime minister said Founder of Pakistan Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah had declared Kashmir as 'a jugular vein of Pakistan'.

The prime minister said that divisions were apparent in the society which was regrettable, but in Muzaffarabad, AJK and Pakistan, all the political parties, their leadership and the assem-



blly members were in unison which reflected the national unity, harmony and solidarity that certainly perturbed

India. "When a society moves with unity, its goals are achieved, giving it further power and strength," he observed.

The prime minister said that the entire 220 million Pakistani nation and the Kashmiris, on the day, gave a clear message of

national unity.

In Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK), for the last 75 years, he said, the blood of innocent Kashmiris was split mercilessly.

The prime minister referred to one of the gory incidents in IIOJK in which a little kid was seen sitting on the chest of his slain grandfather with melancholic looks.

The whole world witnessed the heart-wrenching spectacle, he said, adding thousands of Kashmiri Muslims had been subjected to cruelties and brutalities unleashed by Indian occupation forces while thousands were martyred. He recalled that during 2019, Prime Minister Modi had deprived the IIOJK of its special status, turning the whole occupied valley into an open jail.

## Maryam Nawaz blames Imran Khan for inflation in Pakistan

Bureau Report

MULTAN: Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz (PML-N) Senior Vice President and Chief Organiser Maryam Nawaz has blamed Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chief and former premier Imran Khan for skyrocketing inflation in the country due to his agreement with the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

Maryam Nawaz, while addressing PML-N Workers Convention in Multan today, said today is Kashmir Solidarity Day and Kashmir will become part of Pakistan one day. She saluted the Kashmiris and their martyrs for the struggle for self-determination.

She later blamed PTI chief Imran Khan for the inflation due to his agreement with the IMF. "She knew the difficulties being faced by the nationals due to the skyrocketing inflation as the prices of essential commodities and fuel products have been increased across the country.

## Former president and army chief Pervez Musharraf passes away in Dubai

Spokesman Report

DUBAI / ISLAMABAD: Former army chief and president retired general Pervez Musharraf passed away at a private hospital in Dubai. He was 79.

The former general had been admitted to the American Hospital, Dubai. Musharraf was admitted to Dubai hospitals more than once in the past. He had been facing prolonged battle with the rare disease amyloidosis.

The former military ruler was hospitalized for three weeks in June last year. "Going through a difficult stage where recovery is not possible and organs are malfunctioning. Pray for ease in his daily living," his family said at the time in a statement via Musharraf's official Twitter account.

The family had issued the statement after the



news of his demise had started circulating on social media after some Pakistani and Indian publications carried it.

On Sunday, Musharraf's family has filed an application in the Pakistani consulate in Dubai to shift the former military leader's body to Pakistan.

A special jet will fly to Dubai from Nur Khan Airbase to bring Musharraf's mortal remains back to Pakistan.

Politicians and others have expressed their profound grief over the

demise of Gen Musharraf. PTI leader Ch Fawad Hussain in a tweet uttered positive words about the departed soul, saying Pervez Musharraf himself was a great man, but his friends turned to be cheap.

Reacting to the news, Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) said that the Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee (JCSC) General Sahir Shamshad, and tri-services chiefs expressed heartfelt condolences on the former army chief's demise.

"JCSC and services

chiefs express heartfelt condolences on the sad demise of General Pervez Musharraf, former president, CJCS and chief of army staff. May Allah bless the departed soul and give strength to the bereaved family," the military's media wing said.

PML-Q leaders Ch Parvez Elahi and Ch Moonis Elahi also expressed their deep sense of shock over the demise, saying the services of Gen Musharraf for the army and Pakistan would always be remembered.

In a series of tweets, Senate Chairman Sadiq Sanjrani expressed deep sorrow over the former president's death and extended condolences to the grieving family.

"May God grant the deceased a high rank and give patience to the family," he added.

## Rana Sanaullah warns PTI of consequences over 'Jail Bharo' movement

Bureau Report

MULTAN: Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah said on Sunday that Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz (PML-N) is not afraid of elections and it will contest and win across Punjab in the upcoming polls.

While addressing PML-N Workers Convention in Multan today, Rana Sanaullah said PML-N Quaid Nawaz Sharif gives responsibility to Maryam Nawaz to reorganize the political party.

"Propaganda is being made that PML-N is afraid of elections. We are ready for elections. We will contest the elections and win grab victory across Punjab." He predicted that PML-N will form its government in Punjab.

## Rallies being held across country to observe Kashmir Solidarity Day

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: Activists of political parties, religious outfits, government officials, members of human rights and civil society organisations came together in processions and rallies held in all parts of the country, today (Sunday), to express solidarity with the people of Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK).

The participants demanded the United Nations and international community take notice of Indian atrocities in the valley and rid the people of inhuman curfews, detentions and raids.

In Islamabad, activists, human rights bodies and civil society organisations reaffirmed their pledge to stand by their Kashmiri brethren till the achievement of their right to self-determination.

people of Kashmir.

People and government of Pakistan will continue their unconditional support to Kashmiri brethren till they get their right to self-determination, he added.

Speaking on the occasion, senior leader of All Parties Hurriyat Conference Azad Jammu and Kashmir chapter Gulam Muhammad Safi thanked Pakistan and its people for supporting Kashmiris in their struggle of freedom.

Meanwhile, human chains were formed at Kohala and other important points linking Pakistan and Azad Kashmir. In Karachi, a solidarity rally was attended by the provincial minister as well as the police chief. Nasir Hussain Shah said the Kashmiri people were fighting Indian occupation for seven decades and reiterated that their struggle would soon yield results. Kashmir Solidarity Day is observed to express wholehearted support to the just struggle of oppressed Kashmiri people for their inalienable right to self-determination under the UN resolutions.

## Protest

FAISALABAD: Activists of Pakistan Central Muslim League hold a protest rally to mark Kashmir Solidarity Day in the city on Sunday.



Photo: Online

## Pakistani nation standing in solidarity with Kashmiri people for their freedom struggle: PM

News Desk

MUZAFFARABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Sunday said that the entire Pakistani nation was standing shoulder to shoulder with their Kashmiri brothers in their struggle for freedom.

He said that he had exposed the atrocities and brutalities committed by India against the Kashmiri people of Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) at different world fora.

The prime minister was talking to a delegation of the All Parties Hurriyat Conference (APHC) that called on him, PM Office Media Wing said in a press release.

The prime minister stressed upon forging of unity for the national interests by leaving behind all political affiliations.



He expressed that the freedom of Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir was not far off if they continued this unity on national issues.

During the meeting, AJK Prime Minister Sardar Tanveer Ilyas,

AJK Legislative Assembly Speaker Chaudhry Anwar ul Haq, APHC leaders Mahmood Ahmed Saghir, Altaf Hussain Wani, Muhammad Hussain Khateeb, Faiz Ahmed Naqshbandi, Syed Yousaf Naseem, Manzoor Ahmed

Ilyas and Zia Hussain were present.

Federal ministers Khawaja Saad Rafique, Rana Tanveer Hussain, Murriz Aurangzeb, Murtaza Javaid Abbasi and Adviser to PM Qamar Zaman Kaira were also present on the occasion.

The APHC delegation while warmly welcoming the prime minister expressed that the presence of the prime minister in AJK on the observance of Kashmir Solidarity Day and for the Kashmir cause was a good gesture.

They also appreciated the prime minister for exposing the atrocities and aggression of India before the world community and raising the voice of the Kashmiri people across the globe.

They said that visit of the prime minister reflected his personal priority to the cause of Kashmir.

## IMF softens stance on Kisan Package, Balochistan tube wells subsidies

Commerce Reporter

ISLAMABAD: The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has softened its stance over subsidy in 'Kisan Package' and Balochistan tube wells in energy sector, citing sources ARY News reported on Sunday.

According to sources, the IMF also prepared to keep subsidy for Azad Kashmir intact.

Sources said that the energy subsidy to exporters will be removed. "There are differences with the IMF over tax revenue shortfall," according to sources.

"IMF deems taxes shortfall upto 840 billion rupees, while



Pakistani officials keeping taxes deficiency between 400 to 450 billion rupees," sources said. "Pakistan has floated steps to address this shortfall of taxes," finance ministry officials further said.

"Development budget and other expenditures are likely to

be slashed," sources said. "International Monetary Fund has also suggested hike in GST from 17 to 18 percent, while tax will also be imposed on banks profit and the flood levy," sources said.

The sides have also been in talks over removing relief in

the GST and the income tax, according to sources.

"The matters with the IMF will be decided by May 09, while dialogue over the medium-term budgetary framework with the lender will begin from Feb. 07".

The IMF has demanded hike in tax over luxury items, there are proposals to increase tax over cigarettes and drinks. A proposal also being considered about imposing federal excise duty over air tickets and enhancing 50 paisa per stick excise duty on expensive cigarettes.

The monetary fund has also demanded restricting the state interference in the economy by

privatization as well as it insisted for regular audit in government departments.

To meet another condition of the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the federal government has made it mandatory for all government officials of grade 17 and above to declare their assets.

A notification to this effect was also issued by the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR).

According to the notification, the government has also asked public servants to submit details of their overseas assets. "All 17 to 22 Grade officers have to provide all information before opening a bank account," the notification read.

## Fawad fires a broadside at Sanaullah

Bureau Report

LAHORE: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) senior leader Fawad Chaudhry launched on Sunday a broadside at Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah.

Speaking to media, Mr Chaudhry schooled Mr Sanaullah, saying, "When Mr Sanaullah felt proud to talk about opening bullets on the PTI workers, there remains no difference between him and the Indian interior minister."

Citing the Mongols and Nadir Shah to take a jibe at the Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) bigwigs, Mr Chaudhry said, "Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, Nawaz Sharif, and Asif Ali Zardari have nothing to do for the sake of the country."

## Profile of General Pervez Musharraf

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Pervez Musharraf was born on August 11, 1943 in New Delhi, India. He who took power in a coup in 1999 and also served as president of Pakistan from 2001 to 2008.

Musharraf moved with his family from New Delhi to Karachi in 1947, when Pakistan was carved out as an independent country. The son of a career diplomat, he lived in Turkey during 1949-56. He joined the army in 1964, graduated from the Army Command and Staff College in Quetta, and attended the Royal College of Defence Studies in London.

The former army chief held a number of appointments in the artillery, the infantry, and commando units and also taught at the Staff College in Quetta and in the War Wing of the National Defence College.

He fought in Pakistan's 1965 and 1971 wars with India. The then Prime Minister



Nawaz Sharif appointed Gen Musharraf head of the armed forces in October 1998.

On October 12, 1999, while Musharraf was out of the country, Sharif dismissed him and tried to prevent the plane carrying Musharraf home from landing at the Karachi airport. The armed forces, however, took control of the airport and other government installations and deposed Sharif, paving the way

for Musharraf to become head of a military government.

Although he was generally considered to hold moderate views and promised an eventual return to civilian rule, Musharraf suspended the constitution and dissolved parliament. He formed the National Security Council, made up of civilian and military appointees, to run Pakistan in the interim.

In early 2001 he assumed the presidency and later attempted to negotiate an agreement with India over the Kashmir region. Following the September 11 attacks in 2001 in the United States and the subsequent US invasion of Afghanistan later that year, the US government cultivated close ties with Musharraf in an attempt to root out Islamic extremists in the Afghan-Pakistan border region. Following a movement led by the political parties, Musharraf resigned as the president on August 18, 2008.

On March 30, 2014, Musharraf was indicted for suspending the Constitution on November 3, 2007. On December 17, 2019, a special court handed Musharraf death sentence in the high treason case against him.

The former military ruler left the country in March 2016 for Dubai to seek medical treatment and didn't return to Pakistan since.

## Terrorist Indian state committing genocide of Kashmiris: Mushaal

City Reporter

ISLAMABAD: The Chairperson of Peace and Culture Organisation, Mushaal Hussein Mullick said that terrorist Indian State had been committing genocide of Kashmiri people in the Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) for the last over seven decades.

Mushaal, wife of jailed Kashmiri Hurriyat leader, Muhammad Yasin Malik on Sunday in a statement said that India was the biggest terrorist State, which was involved in the brutal killing and tortured of innocent and unarmed Kashmiri people for their crime to raise voice against the unlawful subjugation of Indian authorities for last 75 years.

The chairperson vowed that the courage of the brave people of the occupied valley could not be dampened with the brutal and inhuman tactics.

However, the Hurriyat leader lamented the world powers duplicity and apathy towards the world worst crisis on the surface on the earth, as



the fascist government adopted a ruthless policy of genocide and ethnic cleansing of the Kashmiri people of the occupied valley.

Mushaal said that Kashmiris would never accept the Hindutva regime and would fight for their inalienable right to self-determination till last drop of their blood.

She appreciated Pakistanis for observing Kashmir Solidarity Day on every February 5 for last 33 years to convey a strong message to world that Kashmiris were not alone in their fight for right to self-determination.

## Plight of Kashmiris worsens since India's revocation of article 370: Dr Mahathir



News Desk

ISLAMABAD: Dr. Mahathir Bin Mohamad, former Prime Minister of Malaysia and a renowned global statesman Sunday said the Kashmir Solidarity Day reminded the world that the plight of people of Kashmir had worsened since India's unilateral revocation of article 370 and 35A of its constitution in August 2019.

In a statement on the occasion of Kashmir Solidarity Day, he said while India continued to insist that revocation was its right, its follow up

actions and the impact of the decision were definitely wrong and against all basic principles of relations between nations.

When the rest of the world imposed lockdowns to contain the spread of Covid 19, India imposed lockdown on Jammu and Kashmir to contain protests and opposition to its emergency law and revocation of the autonomous status of the territory, he added.

Mahathir said, "If lockdowns in other parts of the world, were then intended to save human lives and further sufferings, the lockdown on Jammu and Kashmir resulted in the exact opposite and worst."

The world came to know horrific stories of Indian forces carrying out mass extrajudicial killings, torture, and these stories continued to emerge despite repeated protests and concerns expressed by international bodies, he concluded.

## Farrukh waits for Imran's call to fill jails

Bureau Report

LAHORE: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leader Farrukh Habib waited on Sunday for former prime minister Imran Khan's call to fill all the jails of the country.

Speaking to the media, Mr Habib, while taking a swipe at the Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM), said, "Everyone is aware of the country's situation for the past two months. "The country's economy has been ruined by the current regime."

Continuing to take a dig at his political opponents, Mr Habib claimed, "The deal they are going to reach with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) will be similar to issuing death warrants for the masses."

PPPP invites applications for party

ticket for by-polls

ISLAMABAD: Secretary General Pakistan Peoples Party Parliamentarians (PPPP) Farhat Ullah Babar has invited applications for issuance of tickets to candidates willing to contest by-polls in 31 constituencies of the National Assembly.

According to a press release issued by the party's secretariat, the applicants have been directed to send in the applications with a bank draft worth Rs40,000 in the name of the President PPPP by February 12.

The candidates from Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa will send their particulars to Zardari House, Islamabad, while the candidates from Sindh and Balochistan should send their duly filled applications to Bilawal House, Karachi.

## Kashmir Solidarity Day observed in northern Sindh

News Desk

SUKKUR: People of northern Sindh observed Kashmir Solidarity Day on Sunday to highlight the Kashmiris' cause and the need for resolution of the longstanding Kashmir dispute as per their aspirations.

The day dawned with special prayers at mosques for the freedom of the Kashmiri people and their emancipation from Indian subjugation. A one-minute silence was observed to pay tribute to the Kashmiri martyrs.

Human chains at Municipal Stadium Sukkur where Deputy Commissioner (DC), Sukkur, Shehzad Thaheem and officers of the district officers were also present while other points were formed.

Rallies, public meetings, functions and seminars were held at Sukkur, Khairpur, Shikarpur, Ghotki, Jaccababad and other districts of northern Sindh to highlight the Indian brutalities in Occupied Kashmir and different aspects of the dispute.

## BECS organizes various programme to show solidarity with Kashmiris

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Basic Education Community Schools, (BECS) on Sunday, on the occasion of 'Kashmir Solidarity Day', organized various programs to show solidarity with the people of Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK).

On this occasion, Director General of Basic Education Community Schools Mr. Hameed Khan Niazi, while addressing the students, said that February 5 was observed by Pakistanis (in solidarity) and Kashmiris, as the latter were struggling for their freedom for more than 75 years.

"This day is also commemorated in the memory of those Kashmiri brothers who lost their lives in the war of freedom," he remarked.

He further told that the Kashmir dispute was one of the most prominent issues in Pakistan.

"We pay tribute to our Kashmiri brothers and sisters by expressing solidarity with them on this day," he said.

# Islamia University of Bahawalpur to hold Kashmir Solidarity Day seminar, walk

Correspondent

BAHAWALPUR: The Islamia University of Bahawalpur is holding a series of seminar/walk to show solidarity with the Kashmiri people. Engr. Prof. Dr. Athar Mahboob, Vice Chancellor, the Islamia University of Bahawalpur said in his special message that Kashmir is a global problem and poses a challenge to world peace. The freedom movement is purely an internal movement of Kashmiris which consists of years of endless sacrifices. The right to self-determination is the fundamental right of Kashmiris which has been recognized by the United Nations on

the platform of the United Nations and is still an unresolved global issue.

A large number of teachers, students and university employees participated in the walk held at the Baghdad-ul-Jadeed Campus and Abbasia Campus of the Islamia University of Bahawalpur on the occasion of Kashmir Solidarity Day. Participants said that Indian barbarism and atrocities have been going on in occupied Kashmir for the last seven decades. Violations of basic human rights continue in occupied Kashmir.

Addressing the Kashmir Solidarity Walk, Dean Faculty of Law and Chairman Department of Pakistan

Studies, Prof. Dr. Aftab Hussain Gillani said that self-determination is a fundamental right of Kashmiris which has been recognized by the United Nations through the UN platform. Pakistan has always provided moral and political support to the oppressed Kashmiris and raised its voice for them on every international platform. Chairperson Special Education and Chairperson Hall Council Islamia University Bahawalpur Prof. Dr. Nasreen Akhtar said that for the Kashmiri people the entire Pakistani nation demands from the United Nations that the ongoing Indian atrocities in Kashmir be stopped

immediately. He said that Kashmir has always been and will remain a part of Pakistan.

The United Nations should play its role in stopping Indian atrocities in Kashmir and liberating Kashmiris. On this occasion, other participants said that we will continue to raise our voice for the rights of Kashmiri brothers and sisters till the last drop of blood. Led by Vice Chancellor the Islamia University of Bahawalpur Engr. Prof. Dr. Athar Mahboob, all the students, teachers and employees of the university will continue to show solidarity with their oppressed Kashmiris.

## ADA Awards 3rd cycle 2022-23 held Shahi Qila Lahore



Bureau Report

LAHORE: ADA-The only platform in Pakistan that recognizes and celebrates the Architecture, Design and Art creative industry organized the 2nd and 3rd cycle awards in which winners were announced in Lahore Friday night at Shahi Qila of Lahore. The 1st cycle gala night was held on 19th January 2019, presided by the President of Pakistan who supported the initiative of this publication house and lauded their efforts. ADA founded in 2008, in the recognition of their 1st decade ADA Awards were initiated. Out of the 32 categories, 18 were announced as winners. The ADA magazine transformation was announced on the gala night. The trophy for this cycle has been designed by Abdul Jabbar Gul. ADA Awards are known for holding their award ceremonies at historical and culturally important venues.

Chief Guest of the program Kamran Lashari appreciated the efforts of ADA in promotion of Architecture Design Art efforts in these fields.

Founder of ADA Maria Aslam commented that from extensive categories the juries comprising of local and international judges finalised the names of winners, she further elaborates that it is a year long process which requires utmost care and expertise. Eminent jury members, academic and practising professionals Simone Sfriso joins us from Italy, Tanvir Hassan from UK, Alnoor Mitha from UK, Josephine Akvama from Denmark and Ejaz Ahed from Pakistan. The laureates of the lifetime achievement award are Arif Hassan, the social scientist and Ms. Zohra Hussain of Chawandi Gallery. Special ADA Award was conferred to Mrs. Noorjehan Bilgrami and our globally recognised Rashid Rana for their spectacular work on Pakistan Pavilion for Dubai Expo 2021-2022. This is the only platform that has recognised that Pakistan Pavilion made history in Dubai.

## India does not understand the language of love: Faisal Anwar Bhatti

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: Faisal Anwar, Central Deputy Information Secretary of Pakistan Muslim League Qayyum, has said on the occasion of Kashmir Solidarity Day that the tradition of selling churan(spices) in the name of Occupied Kashmir should end in the country.

He said that we have nuclear power, we have the best-trained army in the world, but our attitude is like that of the poor and the needy, India does not understand the language of love, and it is time to do something. Our hearts beat with Kashmiris and the borders of our country are connected with the edge of Kashmir. We will not allow anyone to change the geography of Pakistan.

Faisal Anwar Bhatti said that Quaid Azam's Pakistan is incomplete without Kashmir. When Quaid-e-Azam did not accept the Indian invasion of Kashmir, how can we accept it? India needs to pay a heavy price for the invasion of Kashmir. Faisal Anwar said that Muslim League Qayyum's aim on Kashmir is blunt and straightforward, Kashmir is the aorta of Pakistan, and will not accept any pressure on it.

## Kashmir Day observed in South Waziristan

Adam Khan Wazir

WANA: District Youth Office with the collaboration of District Administration celebrated Kashmir Day in the tribal district of Lower South Waziristan, and took out a rally to express solidarity with Kashmiris. A large number of people from various walks of life including Deputy Commissioner Lower South Waziristan Muhammad Nasir, District Youth Officer Sardar Ali Wazir and Education Officer Wana Aurangzeb Wazir participated in the celebration of Kashmir Day.

On this occasion, DC said that the purpose of celebrating Kashmir Solidarity Day is to make it clear to the whole world including India that the people of Occupied Jammu and Kashmir are not alone, the entire Pakistani nation and the government of Pakistan stand with the oppressed Kashmiris.

They will continue to raise their voices for their rights at every forum of the world level until the independence and sovereignty of Occupied Kashmir.

The tribal elders said that the oppressed people of Occupied Kashmir have been engaged in the struggle for self-determination and independence for the past 76 years. The United Nations has also passed a resolution to resolve the Kashmir issue according to the aspirations and wishes of the Kashmiri people.

India has not only ignored the UN resolution, but this stubbornness of India is also the biggest obstacle in restoring peace in the region, India has martyred thousands of innocent and innocent Kashmiris since 1948 through state terrorism.

The Kashmiri people have been fighting Indian cruelty and brutality with even stronger nerves than before, by ending the special status of occupied Kashmir on August 5, 2019, India has deprived the people of occupied Kashmir of another fundamental right.

Now is the time for the international community to put pressure on India, the claimant of the so-called democracy and the Kashmir issue should be resolved on a permanent basis according to the resolutions of the United Nations, the blood of Kashmiri martyrs will surely bring color one day.

## Protest rally to mark the Kashmir Solidarity Day

ISLAMABAD: Women activists of Jamaat-e-Islami (JI) hold placards during a protest rally to mark the Kashmir Solidarity Day at Aabpara Chowk, in Federal Capital.



Photo: Online

## UAJK observes Kashmir Solidarity Day

Abdul Majid Tahir

MUZAFFARABAD: The University of Azad Jammu and Kashmir organized different programs to mark the Kashmir Solidarity Day and pay tribute to the people of Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir for their matchless sacrifices for freedom and right to self-determination.



The events hosted by the university including solidarity march, posters and pictorial exhibition and Kashmir cultural show were aim at to highlight the different aspects of Kashmir freedom struggle and regional cultural affinity with the Indian occupied part of Kashmir. A conference was also held in the afternoon which was addressed by different speakers.

Addressing the event, Registrar Professor Dr. Ayesha Sohail

termed the Kashmir issue as an incomplete agenda of the partition of subcontinent and said that peace and security in South Asia could not be assured without resolving the Kashmir conflict in accordance with the aspirations of the Kashmiris and the resolutions of the United Nations Security Council.

Dr. Ayesha Sohail urged the students and teachers of the departments of Kashmir Studies, International Relations and Law of the University to carry out research work to find a viable and legal solution for Kashmir conflict in the changed global scenario. Chairperson Institute of Kashmir Studies Dr. Sumaira, Director of Student Affairs Dr. Imtiaz Awan, Professor Dr. Wajid Aziz Lone and other speakers emphasized that Kashmiris have been offering sacrifices for the last two centuries in general and for the last 75 years in particular.

The freedom loving people of Kashmir laid down their lives, sacrificed their honour and dignity but have never abandoned their struggle for freedom and demand for their right to self-determination.

A photo exhibition was also jointly organized by the Department of Art and Design of the University of Azad Jammu and Kashmir, the Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Commission and the district administration. The exhibition was inaugurated by the Prime Minister of Azad Jammu and Kashmir, Sardar Tanveer Ilyas Khan.

In the event, the students of the Department of Art and Design of the University of Kashmir effectively highlighted the various aspects of the freedom movement of Kashmir through photographs and the art work.

On this occasion, the Prime Minister of Azad Kashmir also announced an award of seven lakh rupees to encourage the students of the Department of Art and Design of UAJK.

## NHA officials express complete solidarity with Kashmiri brethren



Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The officials of National Highway Authority, Ministry of Communications across the country, have expressed deep sense of solidarity to the Muslims facing brutal attacks from the hands of Indian troops in held valley of Kashmir. It is to recall that February 05, is observed as the "Kashmir Solidarity Day".

On this occasion, National Highway Authority, as per directive of Federal Minister for Communications and Postal services Mr. Asad Mahmood and under supervision of Federal Secretary Communications and Chairman NHA Capt (R) Mohammad Khurram Agha, placed pictorial banners, posters, placards, billboards and brochures at buildings of NHA Headquarters, regional offices located in the country, AJK and Gilgit Baltistan and all the toll plazas situated on motorways and national highways networks.

In his statement, condemning the Indian atrocities in occupied Kashmir, Asad Mahmood urged the comity of nations to play their due active role for implementation of United Nations resolutions on Kashmir speaking for giving the right of self determination to the Kashmiris. He reiterated that Pakistan will continue its moral, political and diplomatic support on every forum on national and international level to solve long standing issue of Kashmir.

## Dr. Khurram Tariq donates land for Shaukat Khanum Hospital in Faisalabad

Mian Rashid Asghar

FAISALABAD: President Faisalabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (FCCI), Dr. Khurram Tariq has announced to donate land for the construction of proposed Shaukat Khanum Hospital (SKH) in Faisalabad in his personal capacity.

Addressing a networking dinner of the Faisalabad Chapter of the Friends of SKH, he said that it would facilitate the cancer patients belonging to this city to get state of the art treatment in a professionally managed atmosphere at their doorstep. He welcomed Dr. Faisal Sultan and appreciated his successful corona management strategy. He said that various policies were adopted to contain the spread

of pandemic in different regions and countries but the policy introduced in Pakistan was declared best and all its credit goes to Dr. Faisal Sultan.

He said that every individual in Pakistan has experienced to remain in touch directly and indirectly with the SKH and many of them may have some reservations. Dr. Khurram Tariq said that Pakistan has 180,000 patients every year, out of which 45-50 thousand visits SKH. Most of the relatives of these patients complain that their patient was not properly handled and treated. Clarifying the situation, he said that it is a matter of capacity as SKH could entertain 12-15 thousand patients which are only ten percent of the total cancer patients. He said that as per

policy of the hospital the curable patients are given priority.

Moreover, the capacity of the hospital is also being enhanced as with the increase in average age, the number of cancer patients was also increasing. He appreciated the disciplined culture introduced in this hospital and said that the people tried to visit their patients during odd hours by greasing the palm of the ward-boys but they failed due to the strict administration of the hospital.

He highlighted yet another appreciable aspect of the hospital and said that if two patients are housed in a room. "One of them is fully paid and the other is free, but both are getting the same treatment without any discrimination", he said and

added that hospital administration fully takes care of this critical situation and believes that the ego of the poor patients getting free treatment in the SKH should not be hurt at any cost.

He also appreciated the professionalism in hospital administration and said that all doctors are equally competent and in the absence of one doctor, the other attend the patient with the same devotion and zeal. "The patients are not recognized with reference to a specific doctor but they all are the patients of the hospital", he added. Dr. Khurram appreciated the admission strategy of the hospital and said that it is encouraging that since 2016, one patient from Faisalabad is admitted in the SKH every month.





**SERVICES**

**Namaz Timings**

Fajr ..... 5:37 am  
Zohr ..... 12:22 pm  
Asr ..... 4:04 pm  
Maghrib ..... 5:42 pm  
Isha ..... 7:07 pm

**EMERGENCY**

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

**Women Police Stations**

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

**ENQUIRY**

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

**HOSPITALS**

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

**DEPARTMENTS**

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

**COMPLAINTS**

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

**Govt. Vigar-un-Nisa Noon Women University observes Kashmir Solidarity Day**

City Reporter

RAWALPINDI: An impressive ceremony was held at the Government Vigar-un-Nisa Noon Women University, Rawalpindi to express solidarity with the Kashmiri people here on Sunday.

Commissioner Rawalpindi Liaquat Ali Chatta was the chief guest on the occasion. The ceremony was attended by administrative officers, teachers, students, and people from different walks of life to show their affinity with the Kashmiri brethren, a news release said.

On the occasion, one-minute silence was observed in the ceremony. The students presented Kashmiri songs and tableaux.

Addressing the ceremony, Commissioner Rawalpindi Liaquat Ali Chatta urged the international community to play its due role to resolve the long-standing dispute of Kashmir.

# APHC hails Pakistan's constant support to Kashmir cause

City Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan was observing Kashmir Solidarity Day to reiterate the unflinching support of Pakistani nation to the just struggle of Kashmiri people for their inalienable right to self-determination under United Nations resolutions.

Chairman J&K People's Freedom League and ex-Convenor All Parties Hurriyat Conference (APHC), Muhammad Farooq Rehmani, in a Kashmir Solidarity Day message, said it was the day of difference by Pakistan to ensure her unending and constant support to the struggle of freedom for Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK). "We hail the day of solidarity for Kash-

mir and its freedom from settler-colonialism of India, which aims at transforming Kashmir into a Hindutva State and banning Islam in both Kashmir and India," said Rehmani.

He said 33 years of the solidarity Day by Pakistan with the brave and oppressed people of the IIOJK.

He said that today in 1990, Pakistan as a state and as a nation had given a pledge to the people of Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir that no stone would be left unturned and no part of the world unapproachable to create a political environment for tangible support to the freedom struggle of Kashmir.

He said, "now is the time to strike when the iron is in hand".

India, during the last 3 years has

dismembered and fragmented the state, broken all the promises and violated and trampled all its bilateral agreements and finally re-organised the Occupied State according to its own colonial laws and an aggressive settler-policy to make radical changes in its Muslim demographic, cultural, linguistic and educational character, without taking into consideration great risks to the regional peace, UN Charter, SC resolutions and the UN Human rights principles in this regard.

He urged upon the cherished goal of the people of Pakistan and Jammu and Kashmir for unity, and solidarity saying that today words need to be translated into action and rituals replaced by solid steps for reflection of the great aim of freedom for Jammu and Kashmir.

## Kashmir Solidarity Day

ISLAMABAD: Adviser to the Prime Minister on Kashmir Affairs and Gilgit-Baltistan Qamar Zaman Kaira and others hold a banner during protest rally to mark Kashmir Solidarity Day at Constitution Avenue in Federal Capital on Sunday.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

# Observance of Kashmir Solidarity Day in Private Educational Institutions

Waseem Khokhar

ISLAMABAD: Kashmir Solidarity Day is observed in private schools and colleges of Islamabad on February 5, 2023 on the instructions of Private Educational Institutions Regulatory Authority (ICT-PEIRA), to portray solidarity with the Kashmiri people and to raising awareness and providing support to the peoples of Kashmir on the direction of Federal Minister.

Rana Tanveer Hussain, Federal Minister, Ministry of Federal Education and Professional Training highlighted that "we stand in solidarity with the peoples of Kashmir. Their fight for freedom and dignity and struggle for peace and justice through self determination inspires us all. Our heart goes out to martyrs who lost their lives fighting for their rights and we also want to pay tribute



to those who continue to resist against all odds". In concluding remark, Federal Minister further reiterated that "Together, let us work towards a brighter future where the people of Kashmir can live in peace and with freedom and dignity".

Private schools and colleges in Islamabad observe Kashmir Solidarity Day every year, to highlight the atrocities of the Indian occupation forces in Kashmir. Special events were arranged at different institutions with focus on

Issue of Kashmir and Solidarity with Kashmiri on February 05, 2023 wherein activities including speeches / essay writing / quiz competition, painting/poster making, display of poster, solidarity walk, tableau/performance by students were organized on the issue of Kashmir. The spokesperson, ICT-PEIRA Mr. Zafar Iqbal Yousuf Zai, highlighted that observance of Kashmir Solidarity Day on 5 February is to convey the message that the Pakistani Nation stands by

the Kashmiris who have been facing unprecedented human rights violation in Indian occupied Kashmir. This year special event were organized on the direction of Federal Minister, Ministry of Federal Education and Professional Education.

Chairman AIMS Education System Almass Ayoub Sabir highlighted that an internationally recognized day observed by the private schools of Islamabad wherein Teachers and students commemorates peace walk to raise the voice of innocent Kashmiri people to whole world. Students of Aims Education System School showed Solidarity with Kashmir and also performed tableaux in which the issues of Kashmiri people was portrayed to give moral support to the people of Kashmir and to recognize their long-standing freedom struggle till the day.

## AIOU holds Kashmir solidarity walk, seminar



ISLAMABAD: Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU) observed Kashmir Solidarity Day with full determination and enthusiasm. A Kashmir solidarity day Walk and Seminar was organized, and different radio programs were broadcasted throughout the day regarding Kashmir, various events were also organized in other regional offices of the AIOU including Muzaffarabad, Rawalkot and Mirpur. The walk was led by the Registrar, AIOU, Raja Umar Younis. Principal officers, faculty members, officers and students of the university also participated in the walk. The walk started from the main gate of the university and ended at the Vice Chancellor Secretariat. The participants of the walk carried placards and banners with the message of solidarity.

Director General Regional Services, Dr. Malik Tauqeer Ahmad Khan presided the seminar. Registrar, Raja Umar Younis, Director Students Advisory and Counseling Services, Syed Ghulam Kazim Ali, Dr. Abdul Basit Mujahid and Dr. Samiullah Zuberi were among other speakers. Three students (Hiba Fatima, Iman Fatima and Ilham Rafiq) highlighted the Kashmir issue in their speeches.

Vice Chancellor, Prof. Dr. Nasir Mehmood said in his message that Kashmiris should get the right of self-determination according to the resolutions of the United Nations. Dr. Nasir further said that every citizen of Pakistan is standing with Kashmiri brothers and will continue to support them for the freedom of Kashmir.

Dr. Malik Tauqeer Ahmad Khan said that by highlighting the message of self-determination of Kashmiris, we will force the stakeholders for the implementation of the UN resolutions. He further said that it is necessary to give the Kashmiri people the right to decide their own fate according to the resolutions of the United Nations. The struggle will surely be successful, and the Kashmiri brothers will soon start their journey of a new and independent life with peace and prosperity.

## Kashmir Solidarity Day: A symbol of unity and support

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD :In order to express solidarity and support with the people of Indian-administered Jammu and Kashmir, Government of Pakistan, Ministry of Federal Education and Professional Training, announces the observance of Kashmir Solidarity Day on February 5th, 2023 with full passion and commitment.

On the directives of Federal Education Minister, Rana Tanveer Hussain, cultural shows, book fairs, walks, tableaux, awareness sessions, musical shows, arts, essay writing and debate competitions were held in public and private educational Institutes in Islamabad to engage students and provide them with a platform to express their opinions and ideas on the current situation in Kashmir. This day is marked by various activities and events to raise awareness about the ongoing conflict and human rights violations in the region.

The Federal Minister for Education Rana Tanveer Hussain said that, "On this day of solidarity we vowed that, we will stand with our Kashmiri Brothers and Sisters and fight for their freedom until they get their right of self-determination".

In this regards, Inter Board Committee of Chairmen (IBCC) organized multiple activities which includes, solidarity walk, interactive session with youth and panel discussion on "Kashmir under Indian Atrocities: Challenges and Prospects". On this occasion, Secretary IBCC, Dr Ghulam Ali Mallah calls for an end to the Indian atrocities committed in the region. By expressing his solidarity he said that, "the people of Kashmir were fighting for their freedom for 75 years and they continue to endure human rights violations and injustices under Indian rule. We the people of Pakistan strongly condemn the atrocities of Indian forces on people of Indian Illegally occupied Jammu & Kashmir and we strongly support Right of Self-Determination for Kashmiri people as per UN Resolution".

As part of the celebrations, solidarity walks was organized by the institutions under the umbrella of Federal Education Ministry in cities across Pakistan to showcase their support for the Kashmiri people and raise awareness about their struggle for self-determination. National Book Foundation in collaboration with National Skills University (NSU), Islamabad organized a books festival in NSU to spread awareness through the literature. Kashmir Cultural Festivals were also held in the National College of Arts (NCA) and various schools and colleges in Islamabad, showcasing the rich cultural heritage of the region through music, performances, and traditional cuisines.

Allama Iqbal Open University held seminars and walks in the main and regional campuses. Quaid-i-Azam university organized a walk on the campus to show solidarity with Kashmiris and condemn the brutalities if Indian armed forces in Indian -Occupied Kashmir. NFC Institute of Engineering and Fertilizer Research Faisalabad held rally for expressing solidarity. Various Islamabad Model Colleges for girls and Boys held various events to mark the day. Roots International and Roots Millennium schools alongwith various other private schools also held walks and cultural shows to commemorate the day and raise awareness about the issue.

## Sportsman ship in youth lauded



Staff Reporter

RAWALPINDI: The Millennium Universal College, Rawalpindi hosted its two day mega Annual Olympiad (TMO). The event spanned over two days had a lineup of sports activities with students competing each other in various categories such as Cricket, Futsal, Badminton, Table Tennis, Basketball, Snooker and many other.

Students from as far as Swat Iqra National University including twin cities institutions, took part in the two-day event that was culminated with a social night.

To keep students and audience engaged, a pet show along with Pakistan Cultural display was also organized.

While addressing the prize distribution ceremony, Head of Institution Shabana Jaspal applauded students for their active and enthusiastic participation. TMUC Head of Marketing Shahana Rasool reinforced the need of more such events that can gauge the energies of our youth in the right direction.

# PAC marks Kashmir Solidarity day in befitting manner

News Desk

RAWALPINDI: Punjab Council of the Art organized a photographic exhibition based on Indian atrocities on innocent people of illegally occupied Kashmir to mark to Kashmir solidarity day in a befitting manner. The special guest of the inaugural ceremony was Secretary Information All Parties Hurriyat Conference AJK & Pakistan Chapter Mr. Imtiaz Wani. While addressing the participants of the exhibition, he said that the freedom of Kashmir is the guarantee of world peace. Without the freedom of occupied Kashmir, the dream of world peace can never be fulfilled.

The Kashmir dispute is not a power struggle, but the issue of freeing Kashmir from the illegal occupation of India. Till date, millions of Kashmiris have laid down their lives for the freedom movement, he added. He further



cleared that Kashmiris have only one demand that they should be given the right to self-determination. Kashmiris should get freedom now. We are determined to bring the freedom movement of Kashmir to its logical conclusion. Director of Arts Council Waqar Ahmad said that the entire nation of Pakistan

stands with the Kashmiris. Indian oppression cannot suppress the spirit of freedom of Kashmiris. Every Kashmiri loves Pakistan immensely.

The nation of Pakistan reiterates its moral, diplomatic and political commitment to the people of Occupied Kashmir. He said that we pay tribute to

the people of Kashmir; their sacrifices will not be in vain. The government of Pakistan will continue to raise its effective voice against India's aggression and oppression against the Kashmiri people. Before the photo exhibition, a solidarity walk was organized from Murree Road to Arts Council, in which a large number of students including civil society participated. Tableaus, speech and Kashmiri song competitions were organized in collaboration with All Pakistan Private Schools Management Association to mark Kashmir Solidarity Day.

Eagle Public School won first position, Aims School System second, Al Farooq Public School third while Green Valley School won fourth position in tableau competitions. Masooma, TahniaAbid, Sahar Fatima and Sair bagged the first, second, third and fourth positions respectively in the speech competitions. In the Kashmiri-

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# Pakistan's natural wealth key to reviving national economy

**Abid Ghori**

Chairman of Senate Defence Committee and Pakistan-China Institute (PCI) Senator Mushahid Hussain Syed on Sunday said that Pakistan's natural wealth was a key to reviving the national economy.

He made these remarks during the delegation visit organised by Pakistan-China Institute (PCI), in cooperation with Power China in Port Qasim and Shanghai Electric and Sind Electric Coal Mining Company (SECMC) in Thar, a news release received here said.

Speaking to the workers of CPEC projects in Port Qasim and Thar, Senator Mushahid Hussain termed CPEC as 'single most transformative initiative for economic development in the last 30 years, as it provided a basis for energy security, employment, and changing lives and livelihoods of the people of Pakistan'.

Senator Mushahid Hussain said that Pakistan's huge natural resources, including mineral wealth, natural gas and maritime wealth need to be exploited for the blue economy. Thar alone has 175 billion tons of coal reserves, more than the oil reserves of Iran and Saudi Arabia put together.

Thanks to CPEC, this 'black gold' is now contributing to the national economy.

"The natural gas reserves in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa are several times higher than these reserves in Sui," the Senator added, "if we truly exploit and utilise our mineral wealth, natural gas, and offshore blue economy, cumulatively worth almost a trillion dollars, Pakistan can bid goodbye to the IMF handouts, which we have received for 23 times, without bringing about quality change. He urged the need to change national economic priorities instead of policies that undermine national sovereignty and people's dignity.

The delegation was led by Senator Mushahid Hussain Syed. During the 3-day visit, the delegation first visited the Power China project at Port Qasim, which generates 1320 megawatts of electricity. Power China CEO Guo welcomed the delegation and briefed them on the project.

The Port Qasim power plant, an early harvest project of CPEC, provides electricity to over 4 million homes through clean energy, and it emits environment-friendly white smoke, using supercritical technology. The project has generated jobs, provided revenue to Pakistan worth over \$ 600 million in taxes and duties,

and contributed to resolving Pakistan's chronic energy shortage.

Then on day two of the Sind CPEC projects tour, the delegation flew to Thar where it first toured the Sindh Electric Coal Mining Company (SECMC), which is a joint private-public partnership with support of the Sindh government and China, witnessing the driving of dumper trucks by Thari women, in a living example of Women's empowerment.

The delegation also visited the newly established 1320 megawatts power plant established with investment from Shanghai Electric. China's total investment has been \$ 26 billion, generating 85,000 jobs, including 12,000 in Thar, plus 28,000 Pakistani students now study in China, resulting in a huge socio-economic transformation of the country, thanks to CPEC.

Over 5000 megawatts of electricity have been added to the national grid and some 700 kilometres of road infrastructure have knit the Federation of Pakistan closer together facilitating easier and faster travel.

Parliamentarians belonging to different political parties lauded CPEC as a guarantor of a better tomorrow for Pakistan and thanked China, as a trusted 'all weather friend', for reposing

such confidence in the future of Pakistan by investing in CPEC projects in Pakistan.

They also lauded the role of these companies in promoting people-centric development through Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR).

The parliamentary delegation included Mahesh Mailani, MNA, Minister of State for Health, Senator Dr Zaqra Suhrawardy, Qaiser Sheikh, MNA, Chairman of National Assembly Finance Committee, Senator Qurratul Ain Marri, Muhammad Abubakar, MNA, Chairman of NA Parliamentary Affairs Committee and Senator Muhammad Akram Baloch.

"It was an eye-opening experience to see the impact of CPEC on the local communities and the progress being made on these projects," stated Senator Qurratul Ain Marri.

Dr. Mahesh Kumar Melani, Minister of State for Health, added, "The visit gave us a deeper understanding of the benefits and opportunities created by CPEC for the people of Pakistan. The projects are transforming lives and providing a brighter future for all."

Senator Muhammad Akram stated, "I am proud to be part of a delegation that is witnessing the progress and success of CPEC

first hand. It is a testament to the strong relationship between Pakistan and China and the commitment to building a better future for both our nations."

Senator Dr Zaqra Suhrawardy Taimur remarked, "The delegation visit was a unique opportunity to see the positive impact of the projects on the local communities, particularly for women. It was inspiring to see women driving dumper trucks in the Thar coal mines."

Qaiser Ahmed Sheikh, MNA, said, "CPEC is a game-changer for Pakistan and our visit to the projects provided a firsthand account of the progress being made. It is exciting to see the opportunities being created for the people of Pakistan."

Muhammad Abubakar, MNA, added, "The delegation visit was a significant event in highlighting the success of the projects under CPEC. I am happy to be part of a delegation that is witnessing the positive impact of these projects on our people."

The visit was coordinated by PCI Executive Director, Mustafa Hyder Sayed, who said the purpose was to "provide firsthand look at the CPEC success story through witnessing the transformation brought by CPEC in far-flung areas, as seeing is believing."

## UN documents, publications in Urdu

Former Federal Minister for Population Welfare and Convener, World Minorities Alliance (WMA), J. Salik on Sunday demanded the United Nations to disseminate and translate its documents and publications in Urdu language and declare it as its seventh official language.

He also urged the UN to allow designated minorities' observers (days) at its General Assembly to end disparity.

The Convener WMA made these remarks while exchanging views with Patron-in-Chief, WMA Muhammad Saeed Faisal on the upcoming international interfaith conference to be held under the auspices of the Alliance in Washington DC.

J. Salik said the UN should ensure distribution of its documents in Bangla, Turkish, Korean and Swahili as these languages were also spoken by millions of people around the globe.

Referring to his principle demand, he said the UN should realise that Urdu language is widely understood and spoken in the South Asia region and due to rising Indian, Pakistani, Bengali, Sri Lankan and Nepali diaspora in the Middle East it is understandable among a large number of people.

He added that Pakistan is the only country in the world that has been created by the minorities of the subcontinent against the majority Hindus. The flag of Pakistan is also custodian of equal minorities rights and representation in the country, he added.

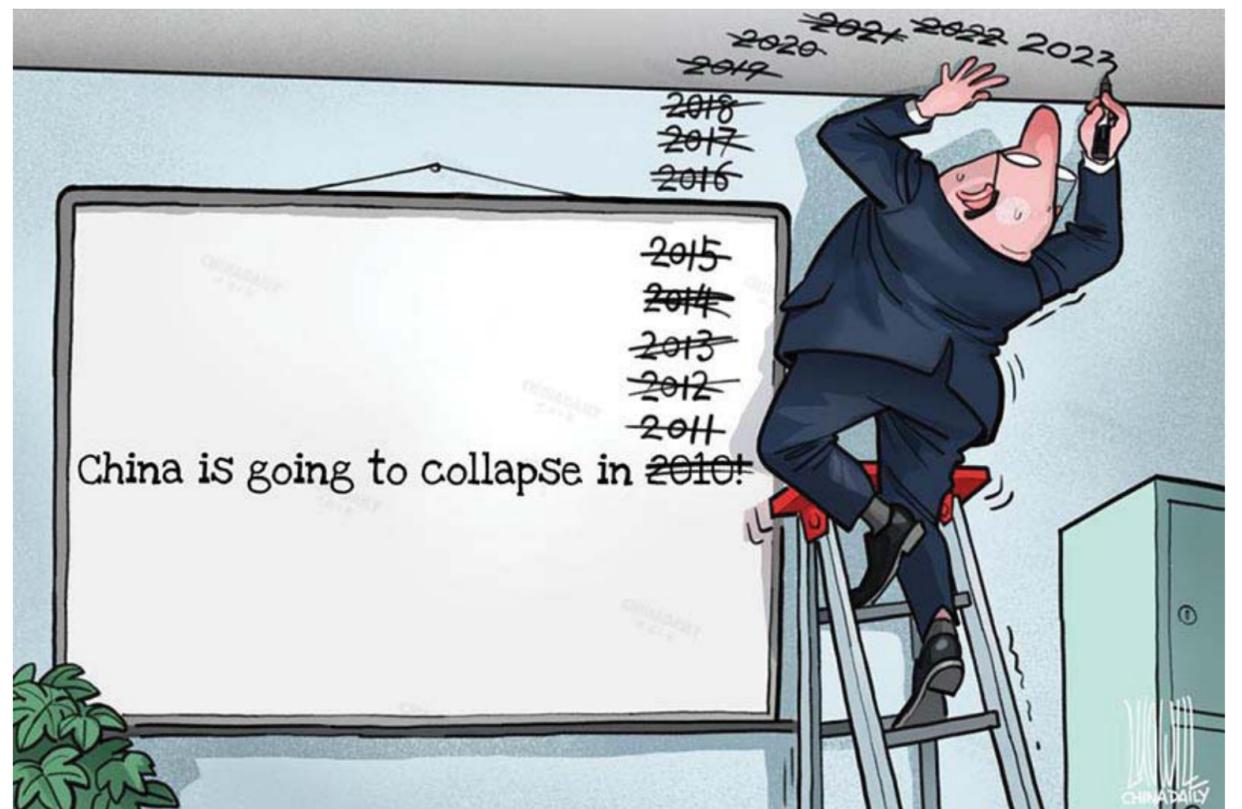
Salik told the Patron-in-Chief that the international interfaith conference due in the first week of March is also intended to advocate for equal rights for the minorities like Muslims, Christians, Jews, Buddhists, Hindus, Sikhs, and people of other faiths as the demographic representation of different faiths varies from one country to the other.

He said the UN should also provide special representation and access to observers belonging to different minorities of the world that would enable them to get recognition and safeguard of their rights at the highest international forum.

The Patron-in-Chief Muhammad Saeed Faisal welcomed the suggestions of J. Salik. He also expressed his satisfaction on the preparations for the international interfaith conference.

He said the conference is a unique combination of artistic exhibition and intellectual discourse that will convene international figures including politicians, diplomats, UN envoys, observers, US Congressmen, philanthropists, civil society and media.

Saeed Faisal underlined that the important part of the event is the chariot ride that will carry 25 oil paintings of various international personalities by Markus Salik.



## Adani's \$108 billion crisis shakes investors' faith in India

**Spokesman Research**

A short seller attack on the Adani conglomerate raises bigger, darker questions about India's credibility as a destination for global investors.

Just 10 days ago, Gautam Adani and his sprawling energy-to-ports empire looked invincible. Now, a damning short-seller attack has left the billionaire battling the worst crisis of his corporate life — and is raising bigger, darker questions about India's credibility as a global growth engine and a destination for international investors.

According to an article published on Bloomberg website, the Adani Group has shed \$108 billion in market value since Hindenburg Research accused it of stock manipulation and accounting fraud in a Jan. 24 report. But it was only when the tycoon scrapped a \$2.4 billion share sale this week that the potential for lasting impact became clear. Adani's rebuttal had failed to reassure investors. Once ranked No. 2 among the world's wealthiest, he has tumbled to No. 21 on the Bloomberg Billionaires Index.

The small, but famed, US short seller has revived old doubts about corporate governance at the Adani conglomerate. The fall-out from its almost 100-page report threatens to undermine investor confidence in India more broadly, and in the nation's regulatory framework — whether its claims ultimately prove to be true or not.

"Things are moving very fast in the market, with a potentially major reassessment of the risks of investing in Indian equities by international investors," said Singapore-based Gary Dugan, chief executive officer

of Global CIO Office, an asset manager and financial advisory firm. "That reassessment includes governance, corporate transparency, nepotism and indebtedness."

Adani, 60, has been close to Prime Minister Narendra Modi for decades. And his business — with investments in capital-intensive projects such as airports, power plants and data centers — is at the heart of Modi's growth agenda. As a national champion, the tycoon has aligned his business interests with Modi's development goals, often stepping in where the state lacks resources or competence, helping create thousands of jobs.

The turmoil has not only hammered Adani Group shares but is also hitting banks that have given loans to the companies. Government-controlled State Bank of India has tumbled 11% since the Hindenburg report came out. Foreign institutional investors pulled a net \$2 billion out of India's stock market from Jan. 27 through Jan. 31, the biggest three-day sell off since March, according to data compiled by Bloomberg.

"The Adani-related headlines are generating a high level of negative attention, which could dampen investor appetite for Indian stocks," said Jian Shi Cortesi, a fund manager at Zurich-based GAM Investments, which oversees more than \$80 billion in assets. "While we don't see Adani dragging down the whole Indian stock market, we think this could lead to India underperforming other Asian markets such as China."

However, some veteran emerging-market investors like Mark Mobius remain unfazed by the meltdown and dismissed chances of a broader contagion.

"This does not reflect the overall viability of the Indian market and economy," said Mobius, co-founder of Mobius Capital Part-

ners LLP. "We don't make decisions based on the index but on the viability of individual companies over the long term."

Hugh Young, Asia chairman of abrdn Plc, which managed more than \$600 billion in assets as of June, said his fund is waiting to dive in after the declines.

But it's apparent even to casual observers that the declining fortunes of the Adani empire has the potential to shake the fundamentals of the Indian economy in a way few other corporate crises can. In fact, Adani's key line of defense is to braid together the fate of his conglomerate with that of Asia's third-largest economy.

For years, Adani companies have delivered the sort of infrastructure projects India has needed. His integrated businesses touch hundreds of millions of Indians each day, from the chain of ports that deliver coal from Adani mines to company power plants running electricity to households through his transmission units.

Along with developing more than 3,100 miles of the country's road network, Adani Group is the largest private operator of India's sea and airports, controlling 33% of Indian air cargo traffic and 24% of its shipping capacity, according to company presentations. The conglomerate plans to plow some \$70 billion into renewable energy projects that are key to Modi achieving India's Net Zero goals.

The group's expansion has been fueled by leverage, with net debt at about 1.6 trillion rupees (\$19.7 billion) — another concern that's been dogging investors. The conglomerate has no dollar debt maturing until 2024. In a sign its debt servicing capacity in the near term looked safe, an Adani unit made a payment for scheduled coupons Thursday.

## Kashmir is a matter of self-determination

**Javed Ullah Raja**

In countries around the world including Pakistan, Kashmir Solidarity Day is celebrated every year on February 5 with the commemoration that the entire Muslim Ummah is an equal participant in the freedom movement of the state of Jammu and Kashmir. And that Kashmir is the artery of Pakistan. At the same time, they strongly condemn the atrocities of the Indian government. The Muslim community around the world appeals to the United Nations. The two resolutions were given in favor of Kashmir's at the time of the partition of India. In light of these resolutions, immediate justice should be provided to the Kashmiri people.

India is engaged in all kinds of abuses against Kashmir's. On August 5, 2019, it abolished Article 370 of its constitution and deprived Occupied Kashmir of its special status. Today, twenty-two million people of Pakistan, Azad Kashmir, and Pakistanis and Kashmir's living around the world express solidarity with the oppressed, subjugated, and forced people of Jammu and Kashmir under the illegal rule of India. On the other hand, the Kashmiri people are also constantly demanding their right to self-determination for freedom from Indian rule which was promised to them in the resolutions of the United Nations at the time of the partition of India. The background of the purpose of celebrating Kashmir Solidarity Day every year is that since the partition of India, the rights of Kashmir's have been violated. And till today, the Muslim majority areas are under the occupation of the enemy country, India. That there have been continuous requests from the United Nations organizations to make the freedom of Kashmir's a state. Despite the passage of time, organizations around the world have remained silent. India is not ready to sit at the negotiation table in the Kashmir issue.

A long period of 76 years has passed, but the independence of the state of Jammu and Kashmir was

not possible from the clutches of India. It should be remembered that at the time when Pakistan and India were divided, according to the resolutions of independence, the areas where Muslims were the majority were the areas of Pakistan. To be included in Occupied Kashmir was also included. But the Maharaja of the then state of Jammu and Kashmir, who had met the Hindus, got together with them, due to which the Indian government illegally sent its troops to the areas of Jammu and Kashmir and occupied many parts of Kashmir. Despite this, the Kashmiri continued their vigorous struggle. In this struggle, it was close that Kashmir would be freed from the domination of India. Immediately, India raised the issue of Kashmir in the United Nations. As a result, two resolutions were passed by the United Nations. Human rights days are celebrated all over the world. But the entire international community is silent on such great cruelty and violations of the human rights of Kashmir's. Because, no positive reaction is being seen against India. Many wars were also fought for the freedom of Kashmir from 1947 till today.

We should also present strong resolutions in our houses and strongly appeal to the international community to liberate the state of Jammu and Kashmir, which has been occupied by India since the partition of India. We call it the aorta and on the other hand mountains of cruelty are being inflicted on the Kashmir's. Our aorta is locked in the claws of our traditional and eternal enemy. The Indian government is doing all kinds of atrocities. Today's rallies, processions, and ceremonies are a manifestation of India's actions against these oppressed Kashmir's. Stop the atrocities immediately. Observing and commemorating one day in a year means that we constantly urge the UN agencies to emphasize India in accordance with the UN resolutions of 1947. Human rights organizations around the world highlight the UN resolutions and should play role in providing justice to Kashmir's because human rights are being violated by the Indian government day by day.

# If a referendum can be held in East Timor and Sudan, why not in Kashmir says PM AJK

MUZAFFARABAD: Prime Minister Azad Jammu and Kashmir Sardar Tanveer Ilyas Khan while terming the unresolved Kashmir dispute as a constant threat to regional peace has said that if referendum can be held in East Timor and Sudan, why not in Kashmir. While addressing a special session of Azad Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly convened on the occasion of Kashmir Solidarity Day, the PM said that the United Nations must take effective notice of the prolonged military occupation of Kashmir by India and play its much needed role to settle the long-running dispute in line with the UNSC resolutions.

"If a referendum can be held in East Timor and Sudan, why can't it be held in Kashmir?", the PM said adding that the unresolved Kashmir was a burning spark that has the potential to jeopardize the peace of the whole world. Referring to Britain's role, the

PM said that the responsibility of the Britain was even more important as it quit the subcontinent while leaving the partition of India halfway." Today we remind the United Nations to complete the incomplete agenda of partition of India", he said.

The AJK premier thanked the Prime Minister of Pakistan Shahbaz Sharif for visiting Muzaffarabad and expressing solidarity with Kashmiri brethren in the occupied Kashmir. Denouncing the Modi government's unilateral move to change the region's special status, the PM said after abrogating article 379 and 35A the Hindu supremacist regime was hell bent on changing the region's demography aimed at converting Muslim majority of the state into a minority. He said that India was investing heavily in Occupied Kashmir, but Kashmiris have rejected this so-called investment by the Modi regime. Recalling Hurriyat leader Syed Ali Geelani,

the PM said, "SAS Geelani had once said that even if India paves the streets of Kashmir with gold, we would still refuse to identify ourselves as Indians". Referring to Kashmiris' history of resistance, the PM said that Kashmiris have an enviable history and tradition of fighting against aggressors.

Lauding the matchless sacrifices Kashmiris have been rendering for the past 75 years, he said that sacrifices rendered by the people of the occupied Kashmir wouldn't go in vain. He said that India cannot suppress the Kashmiris' legitimate struggle but the dint of force. The PM thanked China for opposing the holding of G20 conference in Occupied Kashmir. He said that he had asked the OIC Secretary General to seat Kashmiris in his secretariat. Hailing Pakistan's consistent support and its role to promote and project the Kashmiris' right to self-determination at international level the PM said

that Pakistan had always lend it's all out support to Kashmir cause despite facing myriad of challenges. "Pakistan is the center of hope for oppressed nations of the world", he said. The Prime Minister said that a package of 500 billion announced by former prime minister Imran Khan for Azad Kashmir should be restored on urgent basis.

He also sought tax relief for people in Azad Kashmir. Regarding wheat crisis in Azad Kashmir the PM said that the government had also sent a request to the federal government. The special session convened on the occasion of Solidarity Day was also addressed by Pakistan Prime Minister Muhammad Shahbaz Sharif, Leader of Opposition Chaudhry Latif Akbar, PML-N President Shah Ghulam Qadir, People's Party President Chaudhry Muhammad Yasin, Jammu and Kashmir People's Party Chief Sardar Khalid Ibrahim and others.

## Pak Nepal Relations



Karachi: H.E. Tapas Adhikari, Ambassador of Nepal met with Syed Murad Ali Shah, Chief Minister of Sindh, at CM House, Karachi. During the meeting, he discussed Nepal-Pakistan bilateral relationship and its historical developments. He also discussed the matters of bilateral importance.

## British Council's Deputy Country Director congrats MD SLS Sarfraz Malik



ISLAMABAD: Deputy Country Director Maria Rehman congratulated Managing Director of the SLS College Sarfraz Malik she also presented an award and a certificate to him in IELTS Partners Meet 2022-23 held at Islamabad on excellent performance of his institute in IELTS. Harriet Gardner, Director of Examinations for South Asia, spoke about the British Council's vision and international recognition while Maria Rehman, Deputy Country Director of the British Council, said that all partners are valuable to the British Council. MD SLS termed this year's conference as the best ever. They lauded the performance of the entire team, including BDC Sabih Ijaz and BDM Junaid Khan. MD SLS further said it's positive spin to the upcoming British Council programs. British Council's exam director for South Asia Harriet Gardner presented, Head of English Assessment Touseef Ur Rehman, BDM Junaid Khan, BDM Syed Ikram, BDC Sabeeh Ijaz, other officials of the British Council and B2B partners attended the event.

# Kashmir: The best example to be cited on 'International Day of Human Fraternity'

### Spokesman Report

WASHINGTON: Today, the world is observing the 'International Day of Human Fraternity' to highlight the importance of tolerance among the members of different religions, cultures and ethnicities. Mr. Antonio Guterres, the Secretary General of the United Nations has called for renewed commitment to forge an "alliance of peace" amid a surge in hate speech, sectarianism, and strife. The Secretary General has further said that "The declaration 'Human Fraternity for World Peace and Living Together' - co-authored by His Holiness Pope Francis and His Eminence the Grand Imam of Al-Azhar Sheikh Ahmed El Tayeb - is a model for inter-faith harmony and human solidarity. Let us all take inspiration and renew our commitment to stand together as one human family."

President Joe Biden gave a message of hope to the whole world when he said on the occasion of 'International Day of Human Fraternity': "We have the opportunity to build a better world that upholds universal human



rights, lifts every human being, and advances peace and security for all."

It was on December 21, 2020, that the United Nations General Assembly passed a resolution 75/200 and unanimously proclaimed February 4 as 'the International Day of Human Fraternity'.

Dr. Ghulam Nabi Fai, Chairman, 'World Forum for Peace & Justice', said, "I am so proud to be an American and a Muslim from Kashmir. Because the Valley of Kashmir, where I come from, has remained the symbol of communal harmony and tolerance for centuries. Kashmir has been hailed as the land of saints. Its culture celebrates diversity, and it has been the confluence of a rich mixture

of philosophies and ways of life that merge without losing their distinct identities.

Dr. Fai asked, can anyone deny the fact - of no small significance - that while the Subcontinent under British rule was the scene of recurrent murderous strife, communal riots were unheard of in Kashmir? That unquestionable fact brings out the real character of Kashmir's heritage. A person no less important than Mahatma Gandhi, the father of the nation of India, has eloquently elucidated those sentiments in August 1947 in these words, "...It is really difficult for me to distinguish between a Hindu Kashmiri and a Muslim Kashmiri. You people speak one language and have one culture. While the rest of the country

burns in communal fire, I see a ray of hope in Kashmir only..."

India today, in 2023, needs Mahatma Gandhi more than ever who could take a larger view of matters and frame a constructive course of action, both humane and imaginative. The present Indian leadership of Narendra Modi is wholly absorbed in pretty political concerns. The Modi government has particularly failingly tried to equate Kashmiri people with fundamentalism. The term fundamentalism, Dr. Fai clarified, is quite inapplicable to Kashmiri society. A hallmark of Kashmir has been its long tradition of tolerance, amity, and good will across religious and cultural boundaries. It has a long tradition of moderation and non-violence. Its culture does not generate extremism or fundamentalism.

Fai added that the five religious groups of Kashmir - Buddhists, Sikhs, Hindus, Muslims and a tiny minority of Christians - have for centuries flourished in harmony and mutual bond: no religious ghettos; no religious apartheid; no economic or sharp cultural divides. All religious persuasions rejoiced at each other's holidays and times of joy, attended social gatherings together, lived as neighbors in harmony, and treasured their mutual trust. The various faiths of Kashmir eschew fanatical or extremist dogmas that distort and debase their doctrinal origins. Tolerance and mutual respect are their watchwords.

Dr. Fai cited two recent shining examples of tolerance, communal harmony, and open-mindedness in Kashmir, although there are hundreds of such instances. India's leading weekly 'India Today' reported on May 14, 2022, that 'Muslims helped in performing the last rites of a Kashmiri Pandit woman in Kulgam in a great show of solidarity amid heightened tensions in Kashmir.' And 'Kashmir Life Magazine' reported on September 2, 2022, that 'In a classic act of communal harmony and amity, members of Muslim community Friday performed the last rites of an elderly Pandit woman in Pargochi village in south Kashmir's Shopian district.

Dr. Fai can be reached at [gnyfai2003@yahoo.com](mailto:gnyfai2003@yahoo.com) or [www.kashmirawareness.org](http://www.kashmirawareness.org)

# Kashmir Solidarity Day draws worldwide support

### News Desk

ISLAMABAD: People across the globe on Sunday expressed solidarity with the people of Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) in their legitimate struggle for the right of self-determination in accordance with the United Nations Security Council resolutions and the wishes of Kashmiri people.

Embassies and missions of Pakistan organized seminars and events to highlight the longest lingering and unresolved issue on the agenda of the United Nations. Moreover, different nationalities and expatriates also took out rallies and held protest processions in different countries.

An event was organized on 3rd February 2023 by the Embassy of Pakistan, Tokyo to mark Kashmir Solidarity Day.

Pakistani community members and Kashmiris as well as Japanese people attended the event. Syed Faiz Naqshbandi, Convener All Parties Hurriyat Conference joined the event virtually.

Kashmir Solidarity Day draws worldwide support



Amb Raza Bashir Tatar inaugurated Photographic Exhibition on KSD

The Ambassador-designate, highlighted the continuous atrocities being committed by Indian occupation forces in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK). He expressed Pakistan's full support for the Kashmir cause.

Kashmir Solidarity Day draws worldwide support

Earlier in the day, the members of the Pakistani community and Kashmiris, with banners and placards in hands, held protests in front of the United Nations Office and Indian Embassy in Tokyo.

The Embassy of Pakistan in Kabul organized an event to mark "Kashmir Solidarity Day" to express solidarity with Kashmiri brethren and to pay tribute to the sacrifices made by the people of Jammu and Kashmir for their right to self-determination against Indian brutal forces.



Kashmir Solidarity Day observed at Pakistan Embassy Moscow, Russia



Pakistan High Commissioner to Canada Zaheer A. Janjua speaking to a group of Pakistani and Kashmiri diaspora gathered at the Pakistan High Commission in Ottawa to attend a pictorial exhibition in connection with the Kashmir Solidarity Day.

The ceremony was attended by Pakistani nationals in Kabul as well as officials of the Embassy of Pakistan.

In his remarks, Charge d'Affairs, Muhammad Junaid Wazir stated that the Indian forces illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir on 27th October, 1947 in connivance with Dogra Raj against the will of the Kashmiris 75 years ago. He further said that the people of the valley were looking at the international community for justice and fulfillment of its promise of holding a plebiscite according to UN Security Council resolutions.

Pakistan High Commission Canada along with the Pakistan Consulates in Toronto, Vancouver and Montreal arranged a series of events comprising pictorial exhibitions, demonstrations, and roadshows to mark the Kashmir Solidarity Day.

The main event was held at the Pakistan High Commission in Ottawa where High Commissioner Zaheer Janjua addressed a gathering of Pakistani and Kashmiri diaspora on the significance of Kashmir Solidarity Day.

He pointed out that the Jammu and Kashmir was one of the oldest, internationally recognized disputes on the agenda of the UN Security Council. He said there were 11 UN resolutions on this issue, but India had consistently blocked all efforts for holding a free, fair and impartial plebiscite in IIOJK as enshrined in the UN resolutions.

The High Commissioner also highlighted the woes and suffering of the Kashmiris following the illegal and unilateral Indian actions of 5th August 2019. He said that India's ruling BJP was implementing the Hindutva agenda of RSS in Kashmir by assaulting the Kashmiri culture and identity.

Kashmir Solidarity Day in Tokyo.



**IMF asks govt to lower PLA losses**



**Commerce Desk**

KARACHI: The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has asked the federal government to minimize the losses of Pakistan International Airlines (PIA), ARY News reported on Saturday, quoting sources.

The IMF mission is in Pakistan for the talks on the 9th review of the stalled loan programme.

The fund has directed the federal government to devise a strategy to lower the losses being faced by the PIA as the overall losses reach Rs400 billion.

The IMF has also sought a plan from Islamabad for making the PIA, a profitable organization, the sources privy to the development said.

Earlier in the day, it emerged that the International Monetary Fund (IMF) expressed concern over fiscal indiscipline and mismanagement in government departments.

According to sources, the global lender has expressed dissatisfaction over persistent deficit in state-owned entities.

"There is lack of improvement in electricity and gas transmission losses," IMF pointed out. "Pakistan continuously bearing losses in the energy sector," IMF delegation observed. "It insisted for privatization of the state entities bearing losses," sources said.

The monetary fund has also demanded restricting the state interference in the economy by privatization as well as it is insisting on regular audit in government departments, according to sources.

**Saudi minister warns sanctions, underinvestment may cause energy shortages**

**News Desk**

DUBAI : Saudi Energy Minister Prince Abdulaziz bin Salman warned on Saturday that sanctions and underinvestment in the energy sector could result in a shortage of energy supplies.

The European Union has imposed a series of sanctions against Russia, reducing Russian energy exports, and other Western powers have also imposed measures as they seek to further limit Moscow's ability to fund its war in Ukraine.

In response to a question on how the sanctions environment would affect the energy market, bin Salman told an industry conference in Riyadh: "All of those so-called sanctions, embargoes, lack of investments, they will convolute into one thing and one thing only, a lack of energy supplies of all kinds when they are most needed".

The prince did not specifically mention Russia in his remarks. He said Saudi Arabia was working to send Ukraine liquefied petroleum gas (LPG), which is most commonly used as a cooking fuel and in heating.

Asked what lessons had been learnt from energy market dynamics in 2022, Prince Abdulaziz said the most important one was for the rest of the world to "trust OPEC+".

"We are a responsible group of countries, we do take policy issues relevant to energy and oil markets in a total silo and we don't engage ourselves in political issues," the prince said.

The minister said he remains cautious on any increase in production.

**Japan needs stable, sustained inflation, government executive says**

**Commerce Desk**

TOKYO: Japanese Deputy Chief Cabinet Secretary Seiji Kihara on Sunday stressed the need to achieve an economy where inflation rises stably and sustainably, when asked whether the next central bank governor should maintain ultra-easy monetary policy.

"What's important is to create economic conditions where prices rise stably and sustainably," Kihara told a television programme.

"As for the next BOJ governor, the prime minister will choose who he thinks is the most appropriate person," he said. "It's important for monetary, and the broader macro-economic policy, to be stable."

Kihara also said the government was ready to "respond flexibly as needed," when asked whether additional steps could be taken to cushion the economic blow from rising fuel and raw material costs.

"The priority now is to raise wages. Achieving wage hikes is the best growth strategy for us," he added.

Prime Minister Fumio Kishida's administration has offered subsidies to curb utility and gasoline bills, and prodded firms to hike wages, as it saw approval ratings hit by rising fuel and food prices.

**CDA asked to develop G-9 Markaz on modern lines to facilitate traders**

**Tariq Khattak**

ISLAMABAD : Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) said that Chamber is trying for resolving the key issues of the business community so that businessmen can be facilitated in promoting business activities. He said that ICCI would work with FBR and CDA to address the tax issues and development works of all major markets including G-9 Markaz, Islamabad. He said that the CDA has identified a site for the construction of a parking plaza in G-9 Markaz and stressed that the civic body should start work on this important project to resolve the long-standing issue of traders of the market. He expressed these views while speaking as Chief Guest at the oath-taking ceremony of the newly elected office bearers of the Traders Welfare Association, G-9 Markaz, Islamabad. Raja Javed Iqbal took oath as Pres-



ident, Haji Zafar General Secretary, Sherzada Kakakhil, Javed Khan and Chaudhry Abdul Ghaffar Senior Vice President, Chaudhry Anam Saeed, Ahsan Bakhtawari said that we have already announced the filtration plant for G-9 Markaz whose work is in progress. He said that sewerage

issue and other development works of G-9 Markaz will also be taken up with CDA on priority basis to get them resolved. He said that the unity among the traders of G-9 Markaz is unprecedented which is very welcome because only through unity and consensus, the traders can get their problems resolved effectively.

Speaking on this occasion, Raja Javed Iqbal, who was elected for the third time in a row as President of Traders Welfare Association G-9 Markaz, said that in the form of Ahsan Bakhtawari, a talented and young business leader has taken over the affairs at ICCI, which is a good sign for the businessmen. He said that due to his performance and positive approach, Ahsan Bakhtawari has won the hearts of the traders of G-9 Markaz. He said that his association and the traders of G-9 Markaz would always be cooperating with ICCI for resolving the issues of trading community.

**Sri Lanka completing pre-requisites for IMF aid**

**News Desk**

ISLAMABAD: Sri Lanka is completing the pre-requisites to unlock a \$2.9 billion bailout from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and expects rapid approval from the global lender, President Ranil Wickremesinghe said on Saturday.

"We are successfully completing the difficult stage required to get support from the International Monetary Fund. We expect to get their consent without delay," Wickremesinghe said in his address to the nation to mark the 75th Independence Day.

Sri Lanka, caught in the worst financial crisis since independence from Britain in 1948 triggered by a severe shortage of dollars, has seen steep inflation, a currency plunge and its economy slide into recession.

The island of 22 million people has also been hit by high taxes, a shortage of essential items such as medicine and fuel, and daily power cuts.

Wickremesinghe, who took over after his predecessor fled the country and resigned last year after thousands of protesters occupied his office and residence, has pledged to put the economy back on track but warned



it will be an uphill task. "I know that many of the decisions I have been compelled to take since assuming the presidency have been unpopular .... I will continue this new reform program with the majority of people who love this country," he added.

Sri Lanka is currently focused on getting

financing assurances from key bilateral creditors China and Japan. India, the third major creditor, agreed to support debt restructuring last month.

Sri Lanka's central bank estimates an economic turnaround in the second half of 2023 and inflation to reach single digits by the end of this year.

**Nestle to hike food prices further in 2023, CEO says**



**Spokesman Report**

ISLAMABAD: Nestle will have to raise prices of its food products further this year to offset higher production costs that it has yet to fully pass on to consumers, Chief Executive Mark Schneider told a German newspaper.

The increases will not be as steep as they were in 2022, but "we have some catching up to do over the full year," Schneider was quoted as telling Frankfurt-

er Allgemeine Zeitung in an interview due for publication on Sunday.

In the first nine months of 2022, the world's biggest food group, which makes KitKat chocolate bars and Nescafe reported organic sales growth of 8.5%, of which price rises accounted for 7.5 percentage points.

Inflation in many developed economies has been running at multi-decade highs, driven in large part by increases in prices of food and energy.

**Warm shoes**

KARACHI: People are busy buying warm shoes at Teen Hatti area in Provincial Capital on Sunday.



Photo: Online

**Over 66,000 Kg hoarded flour recovered in raids**

**News Desk**

RAWALPINDI: The Punjab Food department in a crackdown against hoarders on Saturday recovered over 66,000 kgs of hoarded flour in different raids in Rawalpindi, Punjab.

In order to provide relief to the citizens, the food department is monitoring the stocks by its tracking system.

As per details, the deputy director food department in different raids in godowns in Rawalpindi recovered over 66,000 kgs of hoarded wheat flour.

Cases have been regis-

tered against six people and sealed a flour mill. The recovered wheat flour will be provided to the masses at the government's fixed rate, the deputy director said.

Earlier, the Punjab food department decided to check the flour mills' record amid the intense wheat shortage.

As per details, the food department asked for three months' records from flour dealers and shopkeepers.

The officials asked if the flour which is provided by the government to flour mills, reaches the shops, as many shopkeepers complain about the shortage.

**Indian refiners pay traders in dirhams for Russian oil**

**Spokesman Report**

NEW DELHI : Indian refiners have begun paying for most of their Russian oil purchased via Dubai-based traders in United Arab Emirates dirhams instead of U.S. dollars, four sources with knowledge of the matter said.

While Western sanctions against Moscow are not recognised by India, and purchases of Russian oil may in any case not violate them, banks and financial institutions are cautious about clearing payments so as not to unwittingly fall foul of the many measures imposed against Russia following its invasion of Ukraine.

Indian refiners and traders are concerned they may not be able to continue to settle trades in dollars, especially if the price of Russian crude rises above a cap imposed by the Group of Seven nations and Australia in December.

That has led traders to seek alternative methods of payment, which could also aid Russia's efforts to de-dollarise its economy in response to the Western sanctions.

Previous attempts by Indian refiners to pay traders for Russian crude in dirhams through Dubai banks failed, forcing them to switch back to the U.S. currency.

But India's top bank, the State Bank of India (SBI), is now clearing these dirham payments, the sources told Reuters, providing details of transactions that have not previously been reported.

The SBI, which has overseas branches including in the United States, did not respond to requests for comment.

The G7 price cap prohibits any Western company, such as the insurance and shipping service providers that underpin much of global trade, from involvement in trading Russian crude if the purchase price is above \$60 a barrel at the loading point in Russia. That remains the case even if the oil is bound for countries such as China and India which do not recognise the cap.

The shift to dirham payments was also triggered by the SBI asking refiners looking to make dollar payments for Russian crude to provide a breakdown of the costs of the oil, freight and insurance, allowing it to vet trade and avoid violating the cap.

"The SBI is very conservative in its approach," one of the sources said, even though India does not follow the price cap mechanism and Western insurance and shipping are not used for delivery.



Indian refiners typically buy Russian crude from traders at a price that includes delivery to India.

An invoice for such a deal seen by Reuters showed traders asking for an average crude price including freight for Urals crude. The document calculated the price of the cargo in dollars and dirhams.

The four sources said Indian refiners are buying Russian oil on a delivered basis to mitigate any risks arising during shipping, and so far the calculated cost at the point of loading

has been below the price cap.

Indian refiners mostly buy Russian crude from Dubai-based traders including Everest Energy and Litasco, a unit of Russian oil major Lukoil (LKO.HK).

Everest Energy and Litasco did not respond to requests for comment.

India's oil secretary Pankaj Jain last month said Indian companies were not facing any problems in paying for Russian oil as the latest actions by the West do not impact the trade settlement mechanism.

# Amir, Shaheen, Wahab and Wasim on fast bowlers in HBL PSL

**Sports Reporter**

LAHORE: The HBL Pakistan Super League has been synonymous with high-quality fast bowling since its inception in 2016. A distinct feature of the league has been the domination of pacers with four of the five leading wicket-takers in the tournament's history being fast bowlers.

Feeding into the depth of Pakistan's pace bowling arsenal, the HBL PSL has produced some talented quicks including Haris Rauf, Hasan Ali, Muhammad Hasnain, Muhammad Wasim Jnr, Naseem Shah, Shaheen Shah Afridi and Shah Nawaz Dahani who have made a mark on the international stage.

PCB Digital spoke with Muhammad Amir, Muhammad Wasim, Shaheen Shah Afridi and Wahab Riaz, as the fast bowlers discussed the mantra to success in T20 cricket, the bowling tactics deployed for different stages of an innings and the impact of HBL PSL on Pakistan's fast bowling landscape. These interviews are available at the HBL PSL YouTube Channel.

Muhammad Amir – Karachi Kings  
A longtime member of the Karachi

Kings outfit, Amir was the first player to take a hat-trick in HBL PSL when he dismissed Lahore Qalandars' Dwayne Bravo, Zohaib Khan and Kevon Cooper on successive balls in Dubai in 2016. He has taken 54 wickets and also bowled six maiden overs in his 59-match HBL PSL career, most for any bowler in the tournament.

"In T20 cricket, you have to understand what the pitch demands from you as a bowler. You do not worry about which batters are on strike, but instead assess what the wicket requires you to do.

"If there is swing on offer, I will rely on fuller lengths but if the pitch is slow, I will use the off-cutter as my stock ball.

"Nowadays in T20s, there is not a lot of swing to play with apart from the first couple of overs, hence, you have to come up with a strong plan B. You must have different types of deliveries besides conventional swing to outfox the batter.

"As a new-ball bowler, my role in the team is to take early wickets in the Powerplay. On the other hand, while defending a target, I try to create pressure by bowling dot deliveries because if I go for a wicket, I may concede boundaries and the team cannot afford that."

Muhammad Wasim Junior – Islamabad United

Wasim Jnr has been a dynamic addition to the Islamabad United unit over the past two seasons with his skiddy pace often troubling the batters in the death overs. 12 of Wasim's 20 wickets in HBL PSL have come in the death overs of an innings, showing his utility in the final phase.

"Fitness is central to a fast bowler's success and bowling rhythm. Bowling an accurate yorker is a difficult task but the more practice you do in the nets, the better you get at executing the effective delivery.

"If you are bowling in the first innings, your main goal is to dismiss the batters early and keep the opposition restricted to a low score, whereas in the second innings, you can be defensive in your lines and dry up the runs depending on the target."

**Shaheen Shah Afridi – Lahore Qalandars**

Lahore Qalandars captain Shaheen has struck in his first over of an innings 15 times in the HBL PSL, consistently providing his team with an attacking start. He was the leading wicket-taker in HBL PSL 7 with 20 scalps. To date, he is the third most successful bowler



with 70 wickets in 50 matches at an average of just over 20 with an economy-rate of 7.63.

"Any good batter in the world who has played in the HBL PSL, will always appreciate the standards of fast bowling in the league.

"The main reason is that all the fast bowlers here have healthy competition amongst themselves. They are constantly looking to better each other and putting in impressive performances. This is a positive sign for Pakistan cricket that we have good quicks

coming through who bowl with some heat."

**Wahab Riaz – Peshawar Zalmi**

Wahab remains the only bowler in HBL PSL to reach the 100-wicket landmark when he took the scalp of Islamabad United batter Danish Aziz last year. The 37-year-old is also the most capped player in the league with 77 appearances and has donned Zalmi colours across all seven seasons.

"As a bowler, you should be aware of your strengths and weaknesses. You should know how to bowl according to

each phase of the innings. The more matches you play and the more experience you gain, you learn important lessons with the exposure.

"I keep things very simple in T20s. It is necessary you realise that batters will attack and you can go for runs, but you need to trust the process and not forget the basics."

**Upcoming HBL PSL media releases:**

6 February – Significance of HBL PSL  
7 February – PCB Podcast, featuring Imad Wasim, Mohammad Rizwan and Shadab Khan

Previous HBL PSL media releases:  
20 January – HBL PSL 8 schedule announced

24 January – Fans to nominate Hamarary Heroes for HBL PSL 8

25 January – Teams strengthen rosters in HBL PSL 8 replacement draft

31 January – Babar Azam will aim to notch maiden century in HBL PSL

1 February – Shaheen raring for his comeback in HBL PSL 2023

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

3 February – New boys on the block

4 February – Fakhar, Haris and Sharjeel on making of aggressive openers

## Usman Wazeer successfully defends WBO Youth World Title

**Sports Desk**

LAHORE: Pakistani boxer, Usman Wazeer, the reigning WBO Youth World Champion, on Sunday successfully defended his title against the Thai challenger, Krung Kling in Dubai.

According to ARY News, WBO Youth World Champion Pakistani boxer Usman Wazeer has made the country proud by achieving another big success in boxing by successfully defending his Youth World title in Dubai.

In the title fight, Usman Wazeer defeated Thai boxer Krung Kling and in the 7th round of the 10-round title fight, Usman knocked out his opponent.

Usman Wazeer is unde-



feated by winning all 10 international fights so far and he has named this victory after the martyrs of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Police.

The boxer said that he

is proud of the sacrifices of policemen in the war against terrorism. I am grateful to the people of Pakistan for praying for my success.

On the other hand, Paki-

stani boxer Muhammad Saqib has also won the international fight in a boxing competition in Dubai. The young boxer knocked out the Iranian opponent in the third round.

## Quetta Gladiators victorious against Peshawar Zalmi in exhibition match



QUETTA: Skipper Sarfaraz Ahmed's Quetta Gladiators Sunday won an exhibition match in Quetta against the Babar Azam-led Peshawar Zalmi by three runs.

The Gladiators restricted Zalmi to 181-7 in 20 overs, as it attempted to chase 185 runs.

Even though it appeared Zalmi would stand victorious after scoring 109 runs in 10 overs with just one wicket at the halfway mark, Quetta continued to claim wickets at regular intervals towards the inning's end to stall their opponent's progress.

Opener Mohammad Haris, who played some stunning shots, top-scored with 53 runs in 35 balls.

Shahid Afridi and Babar Azam scored 25 and 23 runs, respectively.

Mohammad Hasnain was the pick of the bowlers for Quetta after bagging figures of 3-30 in four overs.

Meanwhile, Naseem Shah defended nine runs in the final over to get his side over the line.

Earlier, Ifikhar Ahmed scored an impressive fifty as Quetta Gladiators set Peshawar Zalmi a target of 185 runs during the exhibition match in Quetta on Sunday.

Zalmi's captain Babar Azam had won the toss and decided to bowl first.

Veteran pacer Wahab Riaz provided Zalmi with the perfect start by dismissing Ahsan Ali and Umar Akmal in the second over of the innings but Quetta fought back in the second half of the innings to post a competitive total on the board.

Ahmed smacked Riaz for six sixes in the final over of the innings to ensure that Quetta finished on a high. The right-hander remained unbeaten on 94 runs in 50 balls.

Middle-order batter Khushdil Shah scored 36 runs in 24 balls, meanwhile opener Abdul Wahid Bangalzai scored 28 in 19.

Quetta captain Sarfaraz Ahmed, who could only score four runs, was cleaned up by Aamir Jamal.

Riaz claimed three wickets but conceded 47 runs in his full quota of four overs.

## PBBF to organize Kashmir Day Women Basketball exhibition on Feb 6

**Sports Desk**

LAHORE: Pakistan Basketball Federation (PBBF) will organise a Women Basketball exhibition match in connection with Kashmir Solidarity Day at Sacred Heart School on Feb 6, 2023. The exhibition match will be played between Pakistan Greens and Kashmir Sports Club women teams.

Renowned sports personality Sahar Khan will be Chief Guest on this occasion. PBBF President Alamgeer Khan, Vice President Abdul Jawad, Senior Vice-President PBBF Col (ret'd) Naseem Butt, General Secretary Amreen Naseem, Imtiazul Hassan, Kh Abdur Rehman will also be present on this occasion.

Muhammad Akram will be the Organising Secretary of the exhibition basketball match.

## 3rd Allama Iqbal Polo Smart City Tournament



**Sports Desk**

LAHORE: Under the auspices of Jinnah Polo Fields 3rd Allama Iqbal Polo Smart City Tournament final won by Remington Pharma after thrilling contest with Diamond Paints by 7-9\*5. From Remington Pharma Hamza Nawaz played outstandingly and scored 8 goals while Bilal Riaz scored 1 goal. From Diamond Paints Nicko Roberts scored 5 goals, Bilal Hayat and Meet Shoaib scored one goal each. This final played on the occasion of Kashmir Day which watched by huge spectators. On this occasion, Project Director Lahore Smart City Brigadier (Retd) Muhammad Nadeem Aslam, Jinnah Polo Fields President Lieutenant Colonel (Retd) Shoaib Aftab, Major Ali Taimoor (Retd) Secretary were also present and they distributed the prizes among the players. Before this final in Subsidiary final FG Polo/Din Group beat Platinum Homes/ Master Paints team by 6.5-9.

## ACC to decide on venue of Asia Cup 2023 next month

KARACHI: The Asian Cricket Council (ACC) will make a final decision on the venue of Asia Cup 2023 in its Executive Board's meeting next month.

The Asia Cup 2023 is to be hosted by Pakistan but following India's refusal to tour the country citing their government's non-permission, the event's hosting in Pakistan became uncertain.

## Pakistan finalize team for Tent Pegging World Cup qualifiers at home

**Tahir Amin Malik**

ISLAMABAD: Equestrian Federation of Pakistan (EFP) has finalized a five-player team for the Tent Pegging World Cup qualifiers scheduled to take place in Pakistan from February 15.

Irfan Wattoo, Wajahatullah Khan, Nasir Abbas, Tasawur Abbas Lak and Fazeel Amjad Bhatti have been selected, following rigorous trials, to represent Pakistan at the event.

Meanwhile, Haroon Bandal was named head coach of the team.

"We have done complete preparations since Pakistan is hosting such a big event for the very first time," said President EFP Sultan Mohammad Ali.



"Pakistani horses are admired worldwide. We hope we live up to this expectation through our performances" he added. It is pertinent to mention

here that Pakistan was given the opportunity to host the Tent Pegging World Cup Qualifiers after India lost the hosting rights of the event last year for letting

Indian players play for Nepal's team illegally.

Six teams will participate in the event which includes hosts Pakistan, Egypt, Libya, Belarus, Iran and Syria.

# Islamabad United launches the world's first Cricketing Metaverse

**Sports Desk**

FEBRUARY 5TH 2023: The most successful PSL Franchise launches the world's first Cricketing Metaverse

Islamabad United will be the first cricket team to enter the metaverse with a world-first built-to-scale virtual stadium. The stadium will be built in the world's leading open metaverse, Decentraland, running alongside a twin stadium that will be available on Android. Fans will be able to get closer to the team than ever before through a series of interactive experiences and challenges.

They will not only be able to interact with their favourite players' avatars but also explore and interact with the many areas within the stadium including the Locker Room, Player's Lounge and Fans Conference Room. The experience will further reward visitors for their explorations and for completing challenges with

official Islamabad United digital kits, club memorabilia and exciting digital assets and offers from Sponsors.

U-Meta Stadium-World's First built-to-scale Metaverse Cricket Stadium In an unprecedented move, Islamabad United has built the world's first, built-to-scale, digital cricket stadium in the metaverse. Under a strategic partnership with VegasCity, in Decentraland, the U-Meta Stadium has evolved as an impressive futuristic space built over 6 acres (20,000+ sq meters). It comes with a fabulous cricket ground, spectator stands, tall-connecting towers, and great shopping and interactive gaming areas. It is equipped with all the essential requirements of an active and modern, world class cricket stadium that will provide a first of its kind, decentralized and immersive experience to cricket fans from anywhere in the world. Fans will be able to take selfies

with the team, ask their favourite players questions, watch PSL8 highlights, attend exclusive Islamabad United events and partake in a series of challenges running through the Season.

James Ashton, CEO of VegasCity, the largest sports district in Decentraland, states, "VegasCity and Decentraland are very happy to welcome Islamabad United. Cricket is the second most watched sport in the world, and we are excited to partner with IU in launching the first built-to-scale cricket stadium in the metaverse. We look forward to providing world class experiences to cricket fans not only from Pakistan but from around the world."

Islamabad United lets fans get closer to the team with its Digital Collectible Cards In another first, Islamabad United will be launching a collection of digital collectible cards which will allow fans to get closer to the team and

their favourite players. These collectibles will use Blockchain and NFT technology to ensure authenticity and scarcity and provide their holders with access to rewards from Islamabad United in both the physical and digital worlds (details to be announced separately).

"Islamabad United has always prided itself in introducing innovative and new concepts to cricket fans in Pakistan as well as globally," said Ali Naqvi, owner of the franchise, on this occasion. "I'm really excited about providing an unprecedented fan experience in the metaverse through industry leaders like Decentraland and Vegas City. We are looking forward to providing fans with a more immersive experience with the game and its stars," he said.

The potential of the metaverse emerging as the next big computing platform has also been recognized by top sports brands like the Australian Open—the



first Grand Slam to enter the metaverse with its innovative AO Art Ball NFTs linked to live match data, LaLigaLand—the first La Liga football space in the metaverse and NBA Top Shot—a platform where NBA's biggest fans can trade in next-generation collectibles.

Islamabad United is just starting its Web3 Journey

"The potential of Web3 is unlimited and Islamabad United is only just starting its journey," Ali Naqvi further added. Cricket fans will continue to enjoy unique experiences beyond PSL 8 and their digital assets will contin-

ue to give rewards in the future. Our strategic global partnerships with Decentraland, VegasCity, RarerThings, Aletheia Technologies and Ideofuzion will allow us to continue providing unique and immersive Web3 experiences to cricket fans around the world," he further added.