



Daily The Spokesman

A Leading National Daily



فرمان رسول ﷺ
بشام بن عروہ نے بتایا، انہیں ان کے والد (عروہ بن زبیر) نے اور انہیں ام المومنین عائشہ صدیقہ رضی اللہ عنہا نے کہ نبی کریم صلی اللہ علیہ وسلم رمضان کے آخری عشر میں اعجاز فرماتے کہ رمضان کے آخری عشر میں شب قدر کو تلاش کرو۔
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RAWALPINDI

UN agencies swing into action to help victims of devastating Türkiye and Syria quakes

UN aid agencies have scrambled to help many thousands of victims of the massive earthquake, that hit southern Türkiye and northern Syria, amid fears of a gigantic humanitarian crisis. (Report on Page 8)



Senator Mushahid Hussain urges govt to initiate 'normal traffic' at Thar border

Chairman Senate Committee on Defence Senator Mushahid Hussain Syed on Monday urged the government to initiate a normal traffic at Thar region's Khokirapar and in Munabao areas adjoining to Rajasthan province of India. Mushahid briefed the House on the recent Senate's delegation visit to Sindh, particularly CPEC projects in Thar, Port Qasim, and others. (Report on Page 8)

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Tragedy

Buildings collapsed after a 7.8 magnitude earthquake hit central Türkiye and northwest Syria on Monday, killing more than 1,500 people.



Photo: Anadolu Agency

Death toll rises to 1,541 after magnitude 7.7 quake rocks SE Türkiye

Spokesman Report

ISTANBUL: At least 1,500 people died Monday in Türkiye when two major earthquakes and 145 aftershocks struck the south-east of the country, officials said.

Vice President Fuat Oktay said 1,541 people were killed and 9,733 others were injured following the earthquakes, which were felt in 11 provinces, including Malatya, Şanlıurfa, Osmaniye and Diyarbakır, although the toll threatened to climb much higher because of the heavy damage.

According to the country's disaster agency, the strong earthquakes originated in the southern province of Kahramanmaraş. Türkiye's Disaster and Emergency Management Authority (AFAD) said the 7.7 magnitude quake struck at 4.17 a.m. (1: 17 a.m. GMT) and was centered in the Pazarcık district.

The quake occurred at a depth of 7 kilometers (4.3 miles).

It was followed by a 6.4 magnitude quake that struck southeast-

ern Gaziantep province.

A third earthquake with a 6.5 magnitude also hit Gaziantep.

The initial earthquake was also felt in other southeastern provinces, including Diyarbakır and neighboring countries including Lebanon and Syria.

President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan took to Twitter to convey get-well wishes to citizens affected by the initial earthquake.

He added that AFAD and other units are "on alert."

He noted that rescue teams were immediately dispatched to the province affected by the earthquake.

"Our Ministry of Interior and Ministry of Health, the AFAD, provincial governorships and all other institutions started their work rapidly."

President Erdoğan who arrived at the Presidency of AFAD to coordinate the studies regarding the 7.7 magnitude earthquake, said that Türkiye was shaken by the biggest disaster since the 1939 Erzincan



A view of the rubble of a building hit by the earthquake in Pazarcık, Kahramanmaraş, Feb. 6, 2023. (AA Photo)

earthquake in the last century, adding: "According to the findings so far, 1,014 of our citizens have lost their lives and 7,634 of our citizens have been injured. The number of people rescued from under the rubble has reached 2,470. The number of demolished buildings is 2,834."

"Its center was determined as the Pazarcık district of Kahramanmaraş and its moment magni-

tude was measured as 7.7 according to the last evaluation. The earthquake was felt over a wide area," the president maintained.

"The earthquake caused destruction in Kahramanmaraş, as well as in Hatay, Gaziantep, Kilis, Osmaniye, Malatya, Adıyaman, Diyarbakır, Şanlıurfa, Adana provinces," Erdoğan noted.

"Despite minor damage

in other provinces relatively close to the earthquake center, it is understood that the real destruction has taken place here. Serious destructions have also occurred in the cities of our southern neighbor Syria, close to our borders. Our state has taken action with all its institutions since the earthquake occurred."

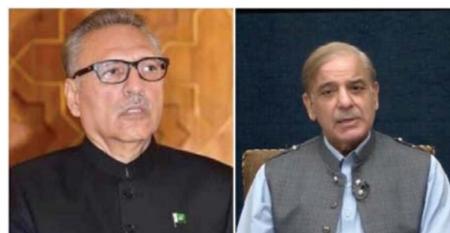
"We are also coordinating our work after the earthquake. We hope that we will get through this disaster together as soon as possible and with the least damage. We will continue our work."

Meanwhile, Interior Minister Süleyman Soylu also said that six earthquakes with a magnitude above 6.0 hit the country early Monday.

Western Syria

A powerful earthquake killed dozens and injured hundreds in northern and western Syria early on Monday, state media said, as rescue teams battled heavy rain and sleet in a search for survivors in the rubble of collapsed buildings.

President, PM extend condolences to Türkiye, Syria



News Desk

ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi and Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Monday extended condolences to Türkiye and Syria over the loss of lives from a massive earthquake.

In their separate messages, both expressed grief and conveyed sympathies to the governments and people of the quake-hit Türkiye and Syria.

President Alvi said, "In this hour of grief, I and the Pakistani nation stand in solidar-

ity with the people of Türkiye and Syria."

He prayed for the departed souls to rest in peace and for the grant of patience to the bereaved families.

Prime Minister Sharif said he was deeply saddened by the news of a massive earthquake that struck the southeastern region of Türkiye and Syria.

He extended his profound condolences and sincere sympathies to the leadership and people of the two countries on the human and material loss.

PM's convened APC rescheduled on Feb 9: Marriyum

City Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Information and Broadcasting Marriyum Aurangzeb said on Monday that All Parties Conference (APC) convened by the Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on the issue of terrorism was rescheduled and now it would be held here on Thursday, February 9, instead of Feb 7.

In a tweet, she said all the national and political leadership of the country has been invited in the Conference.

Marriyum said the national



leadership would formulate a joint strategy to combat terrorism and other challenges being faced by the country.

The minister said National Action Plan would also be reviewed in the APC.

Pakistan stands in firm solidarity with Türkiye in wake of earthquake

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Foreign Office Spokesperson on Monday reiterated that Pakistan stood in complete solidarity with the brotherly people of Türkiye in the wake of unprecedented natural calamity.

"Beyond the immediate relief effort, we will continue to work with Türkiye in the post-disaster rehabilitation and reconstruction phases," the spokesperson said in a press release.

On the instructions of the prime minister, the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) was mobilizing all available resources includ-

ing winterized tents, blankets and other critical life-saving supplies, it was added.

Pakistan stands in firm solidarity with Türkiye in wake of earthquake

Powerful quake rocks Türkiye and Syria killing dozens of people

Urban Search and Rescue Teams trained to operate in disaster hit areas were being dispatched with their equipment and medicines.

"Our Mission in Ankara remains in constant touch with the relevant Turkish authorities to identify any additional requirement for the earthquake affected areas," the spokesperson said.

Pakistan, IMF to hold another round of talks over economic data

Commerce Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and International Monetary Fund (IMF) technical talks could not conclude, and another round of talks will be held today.

The sides failed to fill the gap in talks over their versions with regard to the economic data, sources said.

Policy talks between the sides have been delayed as conclusion of the technical talks lingering on. "The policy talks now expected to begin on February 07 instead of 06", sources said.

Pakistan and the IMF officials have differences over the figures of budget deficit and the tax data. The government officials have failed to convince the IMF over their point of view, sources said.

IMF officials said that the tax revenue of Pakistan will likely

remain 840 billion rupees down, while the Pakistani delegation keeps the figure down by 450 bln rupees.

Pakistan's economic team have to convince with the IMF delegation with regard to the economic data in a meeting today, sources added.

Sources yesterday said that Pakistan has left no option other than hiking the prices of petrol, diesel, electricity and gas. The final decision for the toughest decisions will be taken by the prime minister.

The federal government is also expected to take the other political parties into confidence regarding the tough economic decisions in the upcoming all-parties conference.

In the four-day technical talks, the federal government and the IMF mission held discussions to reduce the budget deficit. Different plans were discussed to reduce the burden of external debt payments.

Imran Khan to finalise PTI candidates for by-polls



Bureau Report

LAHORE: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan has chaired a session of the parliamentary party of Lahore ahead of the by-polls on the provincial and national seats.

Sources told that Imran Khan reviewed the provincial assembly (PA) and the National Assembly (NA) seats in Lahore. Sources added that the PTI central leadership reviewed the details of three candidates in all constituencies.

The PTI Punjab leaders briefed Khan regarding all constituencies and expected candidates. PTI Punjab Central President Dr Yasmin

Rashid gave briefing to the participants on the candidates. The PTI Lahore President Sheikh Imtiaz Mehmood handed over the list of expected candidates to Imran Khan.

The session was attended by Asad Umar, Fawad Chaudhry, Omar Ayub, Ejaz Chaudhary, Dr Yasmin Rashid, Hammad Azhar, Sheikh Imtiaz Mehmood, Shibli Faraz, Aslam Iqbal and others.

The PTI chief will finalise the candidates for the upcoming polls on Lahore's PA and NA seats.

Earlier in the month, the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) issued the schedule for by-elections on 31 vacant seats of the National Assembly (NA).

According to a notification issued by the ECP, the party candidates are asked to submit nomination papers from February 10 to 14, meanwhile, the initial list of the nominated candidates will be displayed on February 15.

The electoral watchdog will scrutinise the candidates who filed the nomination papers on February 18, meanwhile, the election symbols will be allotted to candidates on March 2.

ECP issues schedule for by-polls in NA-38

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Election Commission of Pakistan on Monday announced the schedule of National Assembly (NA-38) by-polls in Dera Ismail Khan.

According to the ECP notification, the candidates are asked to submit nomination papers from February 06 to 08. The initial list of the nominated candidates will be

displayed on February 09.

The electoral watchdog will scrutinise the candidates who filed the nomination papers on February 13 and the final list of the nominated candidates will be displayed on February 21 while the candidates will be able to withdraw their names till February 22.

The notification further said that the election symbols will be allotted to candidates on February 23.

Delegation

The Hon'ble Chief Justice of Pakistan Mr. Justice Umar Ata Bandial, with a 50-member delegation of the Command & Staff College Quetta as a part of the inland study tour, at the Supreme Court of Pakistan, Islamabad on Monday.



Command & Staff College Quetta delegation calls on HCJP

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: A 50 member delegation of the Command and Staff College Quetta, headed by Directing Staff, Lt Colonel Muhammad Sheraz Iqbal Cheema and comprising course participants from officers of the Armed Forces of 25 friendly countries called on the Hon'ble Chief Justice of Pakistan Mr. Justice Umar Ata Bandial here today as a part of their study tour.

Hon'ble Chief Justice of Pakistan welcomed the delegation and gave them an overview of the Constitution of 1973 of Islamic Republic of Pakistan. He informed them about the trichotomy of power in Pakistan, functions and importance of each organ of the State i.e. Parliament, Executive and Judiciary. The delegation was briefed about the judicial system, its functioning, role, dispensation of justice and constitutional juris-

dition of the Supreme Court and the High Courts and the jurisdiction of the District Courts under law to provide relief to the people.

His lordship emphasized that the access of the citizens to law courts under an efficient and effective system of justice is the first condition for fair dispensation of justice. Furthermore, Hon'ble Chief Justice apprized them about the fundamental rights assured by the Constitution. He

informed the delegation about the contribution made by the court in the development of the laws assuring rights of minorities, children, women and environmental protection.

He explained that the Armed Forces in Pakistan have a constitutional role for defence of Pakistan and to aid civilian government. In performing their duties the soldiers of all ranks have laid down their lives in the service of the country. Later,

he answered the questions of the participants in an interactive session.

The delegation presented a shield to the Hon'ble Chief Justice as a token of remembrance. The Hon'ble Chief Justice of Pakistan reciprocated the gesture of goodwill by presenting a shield to the delegation. Earlier the delegation also witnessed the court proceedings before different benches at the Supreme Court of Pakistan.

UN agencies swing into action to help victims of devastating Türkiye and Syria quakes

Spokesman Report

UNITED NATIONS: UN aid agencies have scrambled to help many thousands of victims of the massive earthquake, that hit southern Türkiye and northern Syria, amid fears of a gigantic humanitarian crisis.

The initial 7.8 magnitude quake struck close to Gaziantep early Monday morning, followed by another 7.5 magnitude tremor several hours later.

"My heart goes out to the people of Türkiye and Syria in this hour of tragedy", the UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said in a statement.

"The United Nations is fully committed to supporting the response," he said. "Our teams are on the ground assessing the needs and providing assistance."

More than two thousand have reportedly died and many more are injured with the toll continuing to rise as the rescue work continues.



Guterres said that the UN was counting on the international community to help the many thousands caught up in the disaster, "many of whom were already in dire need of humanitarian aid in areas where access is a challenge."

Emergency medical teams from the World Health Organization, WHO, have

been given the green light to provide essential care for the injured and most vulnerable, WHO chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said in a tweet.

Specialist UN surge teams from the Office of UN Disaster Assessment and Coordination (UNDAC) also tweeted that they were "ready to deploy", amid multiple horri-

fying social media posts showing huge buildings collapsing in heavily built-up areas.

In a statement issued via Twitter, the UN in Türkiye expressed deep sadness at the loss of life and the destruction of property. The team expressed its condolences to the families of victims "as well as to the people and Government", wishing the injured a speedy recovery.

"United Nations Türkiye expresses its solidarity with Türkiye and is ready to assist."

UN humanitarian coordinating office OCHA underscored that the 7.4 magnitude quake hit at the height of winter. The epicentre was in southern Türkiye, where nearby Gaziantep - an important UN aid hub for northern Syria - was among the cities affected.

"Deeply saddened by the loss of life caused by this morning's earthquake," the UN refugee agency in Syria (UNHCR) tweeted, adding

that it was "actively coordinating a response with UN Agencies and other humanitarian actors to deliver assistance and support to those in need in Syria".

Although the earthquake was felt as far away as Lebanon, closer to home, northern Syria's Aleppo and Idlib also reportedly saw thousands of building collapse, including two hospitals.

Humanitarian needs in northern Syria are already huge, as the region is home to millions of people displaced by the country's long-running war.

Snow and rain have hampered the work of rescue teams, whose families are also among those believed to be buried under collapsed buildings.

After an official request for international assistance from Ankara, the UN Children's Fund, UNICEF, confirmed that it was ready to support the emergency response.

PTI regime dismantled strong economy passed on by PML-N in 2018, says Maryam



Bureau Report

MULTAN: Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) Chief Organizer Maryam Nawaz Monday said the last PML-N government had passed on a strong and robust national economy in 2018 which nosedived in the face of a miserable failure of Imran Khan-led PTI regime.

In a matter of few years, the PML-N government's achievements were squandered, thus opening a floodgate of inflation and leaving common people at the receiving end, she said while talking to the media before meeting with the PML-N parliamentarians, ticket-holders, and social media team here.

Maryam Nawaz, who is also Senior Vice President of the PML-N, said the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) government had inherited a Pakistan with a high economic growth rate of 5.8 percent, but it drastically cut down the development trajectory.

Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Mariyum Aurang-

zaib, Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah, senior party leaders Pervaiz Rasheed, Tehmina Daultana, Talal Chaudhry, and Senator Saud Majeed were also present.

Maryam Nawaz said Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif was working round the clock to steer the economy out of trouble and control price hikes, which had resulted due to the wrong policies of the PTI regime.

It would take time to rectify the ills the country had to suffer during the four years of the PTI's "misrule", she added.

Maryam recalled that Nawaz Sharif had finalized a programme with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) in 2016 but its burden was not shifted to the people and as a result, the country was economically strong when the general elections were held in 2018.

On the other hand, the IMF programme signed by the Imran-led government worsened the economic conditions and triggered the worst-ever inflation, she added.

PM Shehbaz, FM Bilawal to visit quake-hit Türkiye



News Desk

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has decided to pay a visit to the earthquake-hit Türkiye on Wednesday (February 8).

PM Shehbaz Sharif is expected to visit Türkiye after a powerful earthquake brought widescale disasters. Sources said that PM Sharif will be accompanied by FM Bilawal Bhutto Zardari during his foreign visit.

The premier will visit the quake-hit areas. He will also visit Ankara and meet Türkiye President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan.

Earlier, PM Sharif telephoned Türkiye President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan and expressed sorrow over

the loss of lives in the powerful earthquake. PM Shehbaz Sharif said that relief teams of Pakistan will reach the quake-hit Türkiye soon. He expressed sorrow over the loss of precious lives in the earthquake and conveyed his deepest condolence to the families of the victims.

The premier said that Pakistan is standing side-by-side with Türkiye and its nationals in a difficult time and Islamabad will provide maximum assistance to cope with the quake disasters.

PM Sharif said that climate change-induced disasters are not limited to a single country or region and the intensity of disasters is gradually increasing.

Caretaker CM thanked nation for Kashmir Solidarity Day observance

Bureau Report

LAHORE: Caretaker Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi has thanked the nation especially people of the province for observing Kashmir Solidarity Day in a befitting manner and expressed his gratitude to the people for vigorously participating in the Kashmir Solidarity Day events and rallies.

A vociferous voice was raised against the oppression and brutality of India in the Occupied Kashmir as the whole nation expressed their complete solidarity and gave a clear message to India that Pakistan and Kashmir are closely knitted in a single string.

Senator Mushahid Hussain urges govt to initiate 'normal traffic' at Thar border

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: Chairman Senate Committee on Defence Senator Mushahid Hussain Syed on Monday urged the government to initiate a normal traffic at Thar region's Khokhrapar and in Munabao areas adjoining to Rajasthan province of India.

Addressing the house at point of order to highlight issues of public interest, Mushahid briefed the House on the recent Senate's delegation visit to Sindh, particularly CPEC projects in Thar, Port Qasim, and others.

Senator Mushahid Hussain said Thar was a success story of the country, where non-Muslim Pakistanis were in majority, namely Hindus, and the area was linked to India along



Rajasthan through Munabao and Khokhrapar areas.

"The world has changed and Thar is leading from the front. The women of Thar are riding dumper trucks under CPEC projects. They are brave, strong and blunt. There are some 1,000 dumper trucks operating in the area out of which 100 are ridden by women," he added.

Senator Mushahid said the

state "held a dialogue with terrorists" and it should also consider "improving its ties with the eastern neighbouring country".

He said under China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) project, Thar was producing 5,000 MW of power; generating 12,000 new jobs; and was home to 12.8 billion tonnes of coal double the size of the oil

reserves of Iran and Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

"I am going to address the Pakistan Navy multilateral exercise AMAN 2023 where I will underscore the importance of the hidden natural resources and blue economy potential juxtaposed together," the senator said.

He said the country had availed of more than 23 International Monetary Fund (IMF) programmes but remained unsuccessful.

"The natural wealth worth \$1.3 trillion is buried in Thar and other parts. If it is used prudently then we can say farewell to IMF forever," he added.

Senator Mushahid also extended his gratitude to the government of China for supporting Pakistan in developing CPEC projects.

Pharma industry demands increase in prices of medicines

Commerce Reporter

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Pharmaceutical Manufacturers Association (PPMA) has demanded an increase in prices of medicine, giving a one-week ultimatum to the government that it would close factories across the country.

According to details, the Pakistan Pharmaceutical Manufacturers Association (PPMA) penned down a letter to the Ministers of Finance and Health and CEO Drug Regulatory Authority of Pakistan (DRAP), demanding an increase in prices of medicines.

In the letter, the pharma industry gave an ultimatum to the government that it would close factories across the country if the government did not increase the prices 'in a week'.

The association demanded to increase the medicine prices to compensate for the rise in rates of petroleum products and US dollar, saying that it had become impossible to manufacture and sell medicines at

their current prices.

The pharma industry warned of a shortage of medicines if the prices are not increased, adding that the factories were facing difficulties in pharmaceutical manufacturing due to the non-opening of letters of credit (LCs).

Earlier in January, the pharma industry warned that the medicine shortage crisis will likely worsen as pharmaceutical firms run out of raw materials.

Chairman PPMA Syed Farooq Bukhari alerted the government that the pharmaceutical companies were running out of raw materials for the production of medicines.

He added if Letters of Credit (LCs) were not opened by the central bank within 15 days, the country would witness an acute shortage of medicines. The chairman said that at least 700 pharmaceutical companies had ordered the raw materials of medicines and the government should open LCs so that the companies can pick up their goods.

Govt officials must perform their duties honestly: PM AJK

Bureau Report

MUZAFFARABAD: Prime Minister Azad Kashmir Sardar Tanvir Ilyas Khan has said that while maintaining the spirit of service the government officials should perform their duties honestly and devote their energies to resolve the problems of the people on a priority basis.

Addressing the graduation ceremony of participants of the ninth mid-career management course organized by the Kashmir Institute of Management (KIM) here today the PM said that KIM was one of finest training institutes that would be further developed. Advisor to Government Hafiz Hamid Raza, Member Legislative Assembly Asim Sharif, Secretary Services Raja Amjad Pervez, Secretary Information Element Yaqub and



Director General Kashmir Institute of Management Brigadier Retired Akhtar Hussain Shah were also present on the occasion.

Speaking on the occasion the Prime Minister announced 2 vehicles and 1.5 million cash for the Kashmir Institute of Management. He said that the

purpose of training programs for civil service officers was meant to enhance their knowledge and polish their communication and leadership skills. Such training programs, he said, play a vital role to improve the overall performance of departments and government officials.

He said that the purpose of conducting the Mid Career Management Course was to improve the participants' capacity building as well as identifying their inherent skills and enabling them to unlock a successful career. The Prime Minister also distributed certificates amongst the participants of the ninth mid-career management course. Director General Kashmir Institute of Management Brigadier Retired Akhtar Hussain Shah presented a memorial shield to the Prime Minister.

Delegation of Wana Press Club met with DC Lower Waziristan

Adam Khan Wazir

WANA: The representative delegation of District Press Club Wana on the instruction of President Mujeeb Ur Rehman Wazir, General Secretary Zardad Khan and Vice President Noor Ali Khan held a detailed meeting with Deputy Commissioner South Waziristan Lower Muhammad Nasir Khan.

On the occasion of the meeting, besides health, female education, government girls degree and electricity loadshedding, youth issues were discussed.

Deputy Commissioner Muhammad Nasir Khan assured to solve the issues under discussion.

According to the details, a detailed meeting was held with the Deputy Commissioner of South Waziristan Lower Nasir Khan in the light of the instruction of the President of District Press Club Wana, Mujeeb Ur Rehman Wazir and regional issues were discussed.

District Press Club Wana Vice President Noor Ali Khan and General Secretary Zardad Wazir on the occasion of the meeting had a detailed discussion on various problems of the region and pointed out various regional problems to the Deputy Commissioner.

In which electricity loadshedding, district headquarter hospital Wana, government degree college Wana besides organizing seminars for youth were emphasized.

Deputy Commissioner Muhammad Nasir Khan appreciated the services of journalists for the area, and hoped,

That the journalist community will continue to play its full role for the development and prosperity of the region, due to the positive role of journalists, an atmosphere of peace and security has been established.

The Deputy Commissioner said that we are trying hard to pay attention to public problems and move towards their solution.

AIOU holds seminar on Kashmir Solidarity Day

ISLAMABAD: A seminar was organized yesterday at Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU) in light of Kashmir solidarity day. Speakers of seminar expressed their concern over the serious violations of human rights by Indian forces in the Indian occupied Jammu and Kashmir. They stressed upon highlighting the human rights violation to the whole world through diplomacy. The speakers said that stable economy will also play a key role to strengthen the cause of Kashmiri people to achieve self-determination according to the resolutions of the United Nations.

The seminar was organized by the Directorate of Student Advisory and Counseling Services, AIOU. Dean, Faculty of Arabic and Islamic Studies, Prof. Dr. Shah Mohiuddin Hashmi represented the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Dr. Nasir Mehmood, and presided over the seminar. Registrar AIOU, Raja Umer Younis, principal officers and faculty members also attended the seminar. Speakers included Secretary Law, Azad Jammu and Kashmir, Irshad Ahmad Qureshi and Secretary, Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Cell, Aijaz Hussain Lone.

The speakers explained in detail the Indian atrocities in the Indian occupied Jammu and Kashmir. They said that India has taken away all the rights and freedom of the people of occupied Jammu and Kashmir, the rights of children are also being violated. They added that so far millions of children have become orphans and women have become widows. After the revocation of article 370, the special status of Jammu and Kashmir has been removed, the plight of Kashmiris has worsened, and all the political leaders of Kashmir are under arrest.

Dr. Shah Mohiuddin Hashmi said that freedom is a natural desire of human beings that cannot be changed by force. He said that India adopted various tactics of violence and oppression in Kashmir but could not end the struggle of Kashmiris but their movement is getting strengthen day by day. He said that Kashmiris will be successful in their struggle, and they will get self-determination one day.

Elections to be held on time: Minister Amin-ul-Haque

HYDERABAD: Federal Minister for Information Technology and Telecommunication Syed Amin-ul-Haque on Monday said the general elections in the country would not be held before October, as the digital census was in progress and the election could not be held before its completion.

He said this while addressing the Digital School inauguration ceremony organized here in Latifabad by the Telecom Foundation School, an institute of the Ministry of Information Technology and Telecommunication.

Syed Amin-ul-Haque said as per the manifesto of Muttahida Qaumi Movement Pakistan, Government College University was providing higher education to the people of Hyderabad and another federal university which would soon be established in the second largest city of Sindh.

He said the digital school was the first of its kind in Hyderabad after Orangi Town's school in Karachi and its network would be extended to other districts of the province.

The minister said enhancing connectivity was a top priority of the Ministry of IT & Telecom so that the majority of the population could be digitally connected. APP

Poetry

HYDERABAD: Poet Rafiuddin Raz presenting his poetry during Youm-e-Yakjehti-e-Kashmir Mushaira, organized by Zeena Pakistan organization and Gymkhana.



Photo: Online

President AJK reminds UK of its moral obligations vis a vis the settlement of Kashmir dispute

Spokesman Report

LONDON: President Azad Kashmir Barrister Sultan Mehmood Chaudhry while reminding British government of its moral obligations vis a vis the settlement of Kashmir dispute has said that Britain has a dual responsibility to resolve the lingering dispute in line with the wishes and aspirations of Kashmiri people. While addressing a rally held on the occasion of Kashmir Solidarity Day, the president said that the Kashmir issue is the legacy of unfinished partition.

"The issue arose when Britain left the subcontinent after the end of its two hundred-year rule", he said. Terming Kashmir dispute as a constant threat to the region's peace and security the president said that the long pending dispute continued to hang like a sword of damocles on India and Pakistan. The international community, he said should keep in mind that both (Pakistan and India) were two nuclear powers. "Any mishap in this highly volatile region can trigger a

nuclear war between the two countries that can put the peace of the whole region in jeopardy", he said.

He said that was imperative that the international community, particularly the United Kingdom should play its role to resolve the Kashmir issue. Referring to deteriorating political and human rights situation in IoK the president said that Kashmiri people have been facing myriad of challenges since the Modi government changed the special status of Kashmir in August 5, 2019.

He, however said that India must bear in mind that it cannot suppress the Kashmiris' legitimate struggle by using its military muscle." The international community, especially the United Nations, should play its role to give the Kashmiri people their right to self-determination", Barrister said. Thanking the diaspora community for their participation in the rally, Barrister Chaudhry said that the expatriates community's massive presence in the solidarity march amply demonstrates their commitment to Kashmir cause.

It is worth to mention here that a large number of people including men and women participated in the rally. The participants of the rally marched from the Indian embassy and later culminated peacefully at the British Prime Minister's office at 10 Downing Street in London.

The participants carrying banners and placards sought world attention towards the simmering situation in KASHMIR while chanting high pitched slogans against Indian illegal occupation and in favour of Kashmiris Right to self-determination. Expressing their solidarity with their brethren in the Indian occupied Kashmir the participants of the rally reiterated their resolve to carry forward the struggle till they achieve their goal of freedom.

On this occasion, Barrister Sultan Mahmood Chaudhry also presented a memorandum to the British Prime Minister's office at 10 Downing Street seeking the British government's role to stop the ongoing atrocities in Occupied Kashmir.

CBD Punjab express solidarity to Kashmiris for their persistent freedom struggle

News desk

LAHORE: Monday: Punjab Central Business District Development Authority (PCBDDA) also known as Central Business District (CBD Punjab), organized a ceremony at CBD House Punjab, to show solidarity with the people of Occupied Jammu & Kashmir, for their persistent struggle for their right of self-determination and freedom.

The ceremony was attended by the Chief Operating Officer of CBD Punjab, Brigadier (R) Mansoor Janjua, Directorate Heads of CBD Punjab, senior management, employees and ancillary staff of CBD Punjab. Addressing the ceremony, Chief Operating Officer CBD Punjab, said that "Today we have gathered to express unflinching support to our Kashmiri brothers and sisters. They are not alone in this struggle for self-determination and freedom as per the sanctions of the United Nations (UN)".

The newly elected cabinet of Daman Press Club Tank took oath

Adam Khan Wazir

TANK: The former government has only taken political revenge from the leaders of other parties while pushing the country into a quagmire of problems. We are working day and night to improve the country's economy.

Federal Minister of Communications Maulana Asad Mehmood expressed these views while addressing the swearing-in ceremony of the elected cabinet of Daman Press Club Tank (Registered).

Former MPA Mahmood Ahmed Khan Bettani, Tehsil Chairman Suddam Hussain Bettani, Tehsil Chairman Jandola Bahadar Khan Bettani and JUI District Information Secretary Shamsul Zaman Shams were also with him.

Earlier, on reaching Daman Press



Club, President of Press Club Dr. Sheikh Ehsan and other members welcomed him.

Talking about Kashmir Day, he said that he pays tribute to the Mujahideen who fought for the freedom of Kashmir.

They stand with Kashmiris for human rights and consider the completion of Kashmir's independence as part of Pakistan

He said that my constituency has been subjected to political revenge for

the last 10 years tonic media has always highlighted regional issues through positive journalism.

He said that as soon as he came to power, he started running to solve the problems

That in a few days, the regular work will be started on the Tank Pezo road and the work on the Runwal-Yarak Interchange road will also be started soon and the constituency will be connected to the biggest economic highway this will end the regional backwardness.

He said that to overcome the power problem, a new transformer of 40 megawatts will be installed for grade upgradation, which will eliminate voltage drop and tripping. Mufti Asad Mahmood further said that the streets and roads of the entire district will be constructed at a cost of 50 crores.

Allama Tahir expressed regret over the casualties in Turkey and Syria earthquake

Mian Rashid Asghar

FAISALABAD: The Central Deputy Secretary General of Pakistan Ulema Council and Member Provincial Ittehad Bin Muslimeen Committee Government of Punjab Allama Tahir-ul-Hassan has expressed a great regret over the casualties due to the earthquake in Turkey and Syria.

It is an in-depth regret for every human being regarding the damage caused by the earthquake in Turkey and Syria, Allama Tahir-ul-Hassan said and added.

He prayed for the high status of the deceased and said that they all are equally participant in the suffering of the people of Turkey and Syria.

Every human being must bow down and pray that may Allah Almighty give the injured a speedy recovery.

Pakistanis' people feel the deep pain of the victims of Turkey and Syria and Turkey will not be left alone in this difficult time.

He said that, a major earthquake of magnitude 7.9 which struck central Turkey and northwest Syria killing & injuring thousands of people and as buildings collapsed across the region, triggering searches for survivors in the rubble, is also



an alarming situation for all over the world.

He elaborated that in this alarming situation, let's call for international assistance to support the earthquake victims.

He said adding that, In Syria, already devastated by more than 11 years of civil war, where numerous buildings tumbled down with big casualties, they also need quick support to ensure their recovery.

The rescue efforts for earthquake hit areas should be focused to save the very tragic situations, he said and added.

He highlighted that the World organisations will have to come forward on emergency basis to take speedy next steps to cover the entire situation of hit areas.



Islamabad
15° - 23° Clear

SERVICES

Namaz Timings

Fajr 5:36 am
Zohr 12:22 pm
Asr 4:05 pm
Maghrib 5:43 pm
Isha 7:08 pm

EMERGENCY

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

Women Police Stations

Islamabad 9222596
Rawalpindi 9270601-20

ENQUIRY

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

HOSPITALS

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

DEPARTMENTS

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

COMPLAINTS

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

NTDC completes construction work on double-circuit transmission line

Bureau Report

LAHORE: In compliance to the directives of Honorable Prime Minister of Pakistan, Mian Muhammad Shahbaz Sharif and Federal Minister for Energy, Engr. Khurram Dastgir Khan, the National Transmission and Despatch Company Limited (NTDC) has completed the construction work of 29 km long, double-circuit transmission line from Polan to Gwadar. Consequently, Pakistan's transmission system in the region will become capable to import additional 100 MW from Iran. Testing of circuit-II of the said transmission line was completed yesterday, whereas testing of circuit-I will be carried out on 07-02-2023.

Evacuation of additional 100 MW power will be started through this transmission line in the next few days. This import of additional power from Iran will be beneficial for the people of Gwadar & Makran division in terms of power adequacy, reduction in load shedding and will increase the confidence of the key business players and investors to tap the opportunities provided by the Gwadar region for their potential businesses.

Kashmiris won't compromise anything less than right to self-determination come what may: Mushaal

Waseem Khokhar

ISLAMABAD: The Chairperson of Peace and Culture Organisation, Mushaal Hussein Mullick said that the supremacist Hindutva regime crossed all limits of state-sponsored terrorism and war crimes to stifle the powerful dissenting voices in the Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK).

Mushaal, wife of jailed Kashmiri Hurriyat leader Muhammad Yasin Malik, while inaugurating 'Kashmir Society' in Pir Mehr Ali Shah Arid Agriculture University Rawalpindi (PMAS-AAUR), here on Monday, said that the fascist Narendra Modi government turned the scenic valley into a slaughter house and the world's largest open prison.

She said that killing, arbitrary arrest, torture have become a norm in IIOJK, as

innocent and unarmed Kashmiri people were being brutally killed and tortured for their sole crime to raise voice for their birth right of right to self-determination.

The chairperson vowed that people of the occupied valley would not compromise anything less than right to self-determination and would leave no stone unturned to turn the dream into a reality. She stated that the fascist authorities could not dampen the courage of the brave Kashmiri people through such brutal and inhuman tactics.

Rehana Hussein Mullick Co Chairperson Peace and Culture Organisation during her address lamented that the Indian government had been committing war crimes in the occupied Kashmir but the world powers and UN bodies were looking the situation like a silent spectator.



Lashing out at the notorious Modi-government for its continued and unabated genocide and ethnic cleansing, she made

it clear that Kashmiris would never accept Hindutva regime and would not budge an inch for their stated position of their

birth right of inalienable right to self-determination.

Rehana Hussein Mullick said that the brutal Indian authorities were bulldozing the houses of Kashmiris Muslim in the valley under its nefarious plan of force eviction policy but the so-called human right organisations adopted a criminal silence.

Vice Chancellor Arid University reminded that the international community should fulfill its obligations to implement the UNSC resolutions regarding the decades-long Kashmir dispute so as Kashmiri people could also able to live life as independent citizens.

Vice Chancellor, PMAS AAUR, Co-Chairperson Peace and Culture Organisation, Rehana Hussein Mullick and other speakers also addressed the seminar.

Auction

ISLAMABAD: People look spare parts of motorcycles on a ground in Islamabad in I-8 sector. The capital administration has started auction impounded and recovered motorcycles and their spare parts in the Federal capital.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

16 outlaws arrested; drugs and weapons recovered

City Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad capital police apprehended sixteen outlaws from different areas of the city and recovered drugs and weapons with ammunition from their possession, a police public relations officer said.

He said that, following the special directions of Inspector General of Police (IGP) Islamabad Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan, the Islamabad capital police has intensified crackdown against the criminal elements in order to eliminate the crime from the city.

Following these directives, the Secretariat police team arrested an accused namely Nasir Mehmood involved in drug peddling and recovered 1025 gram hashish from his possession. Kohsar police team arrested two accused namely Asif and Shamooin involved in possessing illegal weapons and recovered two 30 bore pistols from their possession.

Likewise, the Bhara Kahu police team arrested an accused namely Muhammad Nabeel and recovered 2129 gram heroin and motorbike used in crime from his possession. The Bani Gala police team arrested three accused namely Adeel, Abdul Hadi and Hamza involved in possessing illegal weapons and recovered three 30 bore pistols with ammunition from their possession.

Similarly, the Tarnol police team arrested an accused namely Sahil Khan involved in possessing illegal weapons and recovered one 30 bore pistol from his possession. The Kirpa police team arrested an accused namely Zaboorn Ahmed and recovered one 30 bore pistol from his possession.

Moreover, the Sabzi Mandi police team arrested two accused namely Noshad Noor and Shahgul and recovered 625 gram hashish from their possession. Shams Colony police team arrested an accused namely Atif Khan and recovered 520 gram hashish from his possession.

Wanted members of thief gang held; stolen valuables worth Rs 2.6 million recovered

City Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Capital Police Margalla police team has arrested a wanted member of a thief gang involved in theft incidents and recovered gold ornaments and cash from his possession, a police public relations officer said.

He said that, following the special directions of Inspector General of Police (IGP) Islamabad Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan, the Islamabad capital police has intensified crackdown against the criminal elements involved in bike and car lifting incidents in order to eliminate the crime from the city. According to the details, the Margalla police team used technical and human resources and succeeded in apprehending a wanted member of a thief gang involved in numerous incidents. The accused was identified as Rommel Azam.

Police team also recovered stolen gold ornaments and cash worth Rs 2.6 million from his possession. Case was already registered against the nabbed accused and further investigation is underway.

Senior police officers appreciated the performance of the police team and further directed the police teams to intensify efforts against criminals involved in cars and motorbikes lifting incidents.

India violations of basic human rights in Occupied Kashmir: Sheikh Waheed

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: Prominent socio-political personality of the country, leader of Pakistan Muslim League-N Rawalpindi Division Sheikh Abdul Waheed on the occasion of Kashmir Solidarity Day held a rally from Rawalpindi Press Club, to Liaquat Bagh Chowk Murree Road. In his speech, he took the United Nation with open arms by highlighting the atrocities and violations of basic human rights in Occupied Kashmir.

He not only focused the world's attention on the independent and empowered government of Azad Jammu and Kashmir, but also said that The United Nation should play its role in establishing an independent state by implementing all its resolutions immediately.

He also woke up the brothers of Azad Kashmir and said that why doesn't Syed Ali Geelani come out of every house of Azad Kashmir? Ali Geelani's voice should be raised in every forum of the world for the imprisonment of the oppressed of Occupied Kashmir, "Open the door! Open the door! Look, the funeral of India's democracy is coming out". In order to liberate Occupied Kashmir, it is not enough to initiate a revolution even from Azad Kashmir at the governmental and public level.

'2022 INTERCOVID Study' conducted

KARACHI: In its latest '2022 INTERCOVID Study' conducted in 41 hospitals across 18 countries, including the Aga Khan University Hospital in Pakistan, the global network led by the Oxford Maternal and Perinatal Health Institute (OMPHI) at the University of Oxford has cited that pregnant women who were vaccinated, were well protected against severe COVID-19 symptoms and complications and had a very low risk of admission to an intensive care unit.

The study evaluated the impact of the COVID-19 Omicron variant on maternal and neonatal outcomes and the efficacy of vaccination to reduce the associated risks. The researchers studied 1,545 pregnant women diagnosed with the variant and 3,073 non-diagnosed, concomitant pregnant women as controls.

PAC concludes Gandhara Festival 2023

News Desk

RAWALPINDI: Gandhara Festival organized by the Punjab Arts Council ended after 7 days of raging. During the festival, a rush of tourists was seen at the artisans and food stalls. The arrival of foreign ambassadors in the festival gave a positive impression of Pakistan to the world. The foreign ambassador reiterated the commitment of the Punjab government to come to the festivals in the future as well.

On the last day of the festival, a beautiful play titled Ashoka the Great was presented. The play is written by Sajjad Ahmed Lakha and directed by Sulaiman Sunny. The play shows Ashoka from being a warrior to living an ordinary life inspired by the teachings of Gautama Buddha. The characters of the drama include Mehboob Ilyas, Ali Shan, Ghiyas Mastana, Sawira Princess, Umar Gul, Saima Rehman, Saeed Anwar, Kashif Raza, Karam Khan, Ayesha Rajput, Hamidullah, Noor, Qamar, Akhtar Rashid, Imran Asghar, Haroon Kayani, Anjum Abbasi, Umar Gul, Faqeer Hussain, Dr. Sajjad, Yar Muhammad Khan, Afzal Latif, Ifat Chaudhry, Haji Azam, Honey



Baloch, Yasar bhathi and others were included. Director Arts Council Waqar Ahmed was the special guest of the play.

Director Arts Council Waqar Ahmed said that Ashoka is an important character of Gandhara civilization. He changed the course of history. Regarding Gandhara Festival, he said that Punjab Arts Council is the custodian of the culture and civiliza-

tions of the province. In order to convey the cultural heritage of Punjab to the world, the festival is also being organized on the civilization of Harappa, Cholistan and Indus. Finally, the director of the arts council Waqar Ahmad gave Sulaiman Sunny an appreciation shield. A large number of people were present at the Arts Council to watch the play.

Standard Chartered launches SC Sahar Women's Account

Spokesman Report

KARACHI: Standard Chartered Bank Pakistan Limited (SCBPL) has launched a special bank account for Women named 'SC Sahar Women's Account'. This innovative facility will cater to the evolving needs of the Bank's female customers and reflects Standard Chartered's focus on financial inclusion and empowerment of women.

The SC Sahar Women's Account will enable women to avail services that include but are not limited to, no initial deposit or minimum balance requirement, free debit card and cheque book issuance, with free account statements and bank certificates. This account can be



conveniently operated through the Bank's 24/7 digital banking. The Account is also offered to Business Customers, along with a 'waiver' on installation charges and monthly fee of 'Straight-to-Bank' (S2B) payment platform designed for businesses where the user can make payments and track business transactions, even on the move. SC Sahar Women's Account, is also available in Islamic Banking.

SC Sahar's asset products offer rate breaks on personal finance and cash back on credit card spend with a first year annual fee waiver. Fee-waiver on 'home

finance' processing fee can also be availed, along with amazing giveaways. The SC Sahar asset proposition includes 'Easy Credit' (Revolving-Finance) at preferential rates and corporate card for business owners. Through the SC Sahar wealth proposition women may avail specialised advisory services on investment and insurance products, along with cash backs on mutual funds and discount on insurance investments.

Saadia Riaz, Head of Consumer, Private and Business Banking at Standard Chartered Bank, said, "SC Sahar Women's Account facilities are based on advanced financial technologies to provide financial security, digi-

tal accessibility, and economic freedom to the largely unbanked female population of Pakistan. We hope to inspire them to manage their own finances through regulated banking channels, by availing a wide range of benefits and opportunities. We are enabling Pakistani women to unleash their true potential and make valuable contribution to the nation's progress.

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AMAN 2023 exercises to bridge interoperability among regional navies

Ali Jabir

As offense is universally acknowledged as the best defense; a balanced and capable military force is equally imperative for peace among the nation and in regions.

This capability becomes more inevitable when nations house in volatile regions where unending hegemonic wishes and insurgencies continue to repeat over the decades.

Therefore, countries have to opt for better defense capabilities to ensure regional peace with an aim to promote bilateral and multi-lateral peace overtures at parity with other countries.

For the purpose, the defense forces carry out different exercises like Pakistan Navy (PN)'s biennial multinational exercise with its AMAN 2023 commencing in Karachi this year from February 10.

Its core objective is to project country's positive image, consolidate PN's position in regional maritime arena and enhance interoperability with regional and extra regional navies and demonstrate Pakistan's commitment to peace.

It was in view of the importance of regional peace that Pakistan Navy (PN) started multi-national AMAN exercises from 2007 to strengthen maritime security and enhance regional and extra regional cooperation and interoperability.

Since commencement of multinational drill, the PN had successfully conducted seven exercises so far with 8th exercise

planned for current month inviting over 110 countries to participate.

This Exercise has emerged as a major International Naval event as evident from growing number of participants and reflects Pakistan's growing positive image.

Its main attraction is the maiden Pakistan International Maritime Expo and Conference (PIMEC), aimed at showcasing country's maritime potential and promoting regional cooperation and stability and to display a united resolve against terrorism and maritime crimes including piracy.

Chronological AMAN series reveal that first AMAN Exercise held in March 2007 participated by 14 ships from Bangladesh, China, France, Italy, Malaysia, UK and USA that further expanded to Nigeria, Australia, Japan, Saudi Arabia, Russia, Sri Lanka and Poland in coming years.

In 2007, Special Operations Forces and Explosive Ordnance Disposal (SOF/EOD) teams from Bangladesh and Turkey also participated in SOF exercises. Overall 28 countries participated in the exercise with 29 observers.

The 2nd Exercise, AMAN-09, conducted in March 2009 was participated by 24 countries with military assets besides 29 observers as AMAN-11 was participated by 28 countries with naval assets and besides 43 observers and in AMAN-13 Navies of 29 countries participated in exercise with 36 observers.

Similarly, AMAN-17 conducted in North Arabian Sea from in 2017, was participated by 34 countries including Pakistan participated with military assets

and there were 67 observers; AMAN-19 was led in North Arabian Sea with 46 countries including participating in it with 11 ships, two P3Cs, 15 SOF/EOD/ and other equipment with 113 observers.

AMAN-21 was the last of the series conducted in North Arabian Sea from February 11-16, 2021 where some 11 ships from seven nations, one Turkish MPA, four SOF teams/ Observers, three EOD teams/Observer, 11 Senior officers and 117 Observers along with PN Ships, aircraft, SSG (N) teams and PAK Marines assets took part in the drills.

This year 110 countries have been invited to participate in the Exercise to provide them a common forum for information sharing, mutual understanding and identifying areas of common interests for group analysis and dialogue.

It is also expected to developing and practicing response tactics, techniques and procedures against asymmetric and traditional threats during sea phase of the exercise, intermingling of multinationals with depiction of their respective cultures during cultural shows and food galas.

The Exercise is being divided into Harbour and Sea Phases wherein the former includes arrival of participating units, opening ceremony at PN Dockyard, wreath laying, friendly sport matches, Maritime Counter Terrorism Demo by SSG (N)/ Pak Marines, table top discussions (TTDs) on professional topics, calls and visits including ship visits, international band display, international cultural display and food gala and the first ever Pakistan International Maritime Expo

and Conference (PIMEC) at Expo Centre Karachi. The sea activities include an International Fleet Review (IFR) being scheduled at sea on February 14, 2023. During IFR, various operational activities mainly RAS (L) Token, Counter Piracy Demo by PN MSW Team, Rocket Depth Charge (RDC) firing, Surface Firing on Killer Tomato, Fly Past by Air Units (PN, PAF and Foreign participating Aircraft), Man and Cheer Ship have been planned in the honor of the Chief Guest.

In addition to IFR, various exercises would be conducted to practice response against maritime security threats in a multinational environment. Special Operation Forces (SOF), Explosives Ordnance Disposal (EOD) and Marines teams will also participate in these exercises.

The SOF/EOD/Marine personnel have the frontline role against threat of maritime terrorism and other crimes. Therefore, a number of exercises have been planned to develop Tactics, Techniques and Procedures (TTPs) for combined action by multinational forces against asymmetric threats. The objectives for the flagship PIMEC are to provide opportunities to maritime industry to display products at one forum and interact directly with International Maritime Industry.

Experts believe that inviting International Maritime and Defence Manufacturers for joint ventures would not only help transfer of technology to boost Pakistan's Industrial setup but also highlight country's vast potential for Blue Economy and reinforce efforts in the realm of Maritime Diplomacy.

Resolving Gwadar issues provincial govt's responsibility

Minister of State for Law and Justice Shahadat Awan said the responsibility of resolving the Gwadar issues was primarily the provincial government's responsibility after the 18th Amendment of the constitution.

The minister made these remarks while winding up the discussion on the motion presented by Senator Kamran Murtaza and Mushtaq Ahmed on the recent situation of protests in Gwadar City on alleged illegal trawling in the sea; high number of security checkpoints operating in and around the city; and also trade on Pak-Iran Border purportedly affecting the residents of Gwadar.

Awan said the local issues, other than security or law and order, were related to the provincial government.

While narrating the context of the situation in Gwadar due to protests, he added that the demands of small fishermen in Gwadar was just.

"On November 21, 2021 the former prime minister created a special committee to contain trawling. However, on December 26, 2022 the Balochistan government requested the Ministry of Interior to control the law and order situation that was aggravated after the death of a police constable," the Minister of State said.

He noted that the federal government was well aware of the situation and, therefore, a special committee comprising of the minister for Maritime Affairs to resolve the issues of Gwadar fishermen.

The senator argued that it was not a matter of anti-state attitude but rather an issue of civil rights, where allegedly the poor governance of the provincial government was a major issue contributing to it.

He alleged that the elected representative of Gwadar in the provincial assembly, despite his influence, was contributing more to the problems rather playing his constructive role to resolve the crisis.

Earlier, Senator Mushtaq Ahmed while presenting the motion apprised the house that Gwadar's 'Haq Do Tehreek' (Give Rights Movement) was a just protest in resistance to the mishandling of the stakeholders, persecution of women, children, elderly, and others for demanding their fundamental rights.

"The Constitutions Articles 16, 17 and 19 allow the countrymen freedom of assembly, association and expression respectively. The locals of Gwadar are being deprived of all these. The Haq Do Tehreek leader Moulana Hidayatur Rehman held three sit-ins to draw the attention of the provincial government," he added.

Senator Ahmed said the tehreek earlier presented 42-point demands to the chief minister pertaining to education, health, border trade, missing persons, water availability and others that were all legal.

"Chief Minister Balochistan Abdul Qudus Bizenjo had agreed to the demands of the Tehreek but was not implemented afterwards," he claimed.

Senator Tahir Bizejo on point of order urged the House to take serious note of the situation in Gwadar.

Senator Molana Abdul Ghafoor Haideri said the people of Gwadar for centuries were relying on fisheries and their concerns should be addressed.



Efficient policing imperative for masses security

Saeed Ahmed Ali

Despite repeated plans and strategies, police performance across the country especially in remote areas had been deteriorating over the period, badly shattering the masses' confidence.

People are frequently seen complaining of bribery, nepotism, negligence of duty and political interference in the police service as these ills proved to be lethal for a force already facing the challenges of improper training, obsolete equipment and paucity of funds.

Seeing through the annals of history, the police department was established in the sub-continent as an imperial force by the British regime, in the aftermath of the 1857 war of Independence, to coerce people rather than protecting them.

After the partition in 1947, Pakistan inherited a police infrastructure founded on the Police Act of 1861, a framework that provides an unaccountable, authoritative and oppressive police force. These laws remained in vogue till 2002, when finally, a new reform-oriented police order was promulgated.

But, even the reformed police fell short of generating desired results of being people-friendly while its structure, despite repeated amendments and modifications of the Police Order, is still on way to comprehension.

The Supreme Court of Pakistan (SCP) lawyer Saffdar Shaheen Pirzada says that the country at present has a dual criminal justice

system – the federal criminal justice system and the provincial criminal justice system.

"Therefore, it shared responsibility of the senior police officials as well as the politicians to ensure a transparent mechanism for desired police performance."

Professor Hassan Abbas, a senior advisor at the Harvard Kennedy School Belfer Center and Bernard Schwartz Fellow at Asia Society, New York, has also pleaded major restructuring in police force.

Dr Hassan Abbas who also holds the Quaid-i-Azam Chair at South Asia Institute of Columbia University has recently submitted his research report-'A Vision for a Better Future and a Roadmap for Getting There,' on improving police infrastructure in the country. "We need to remove obstacles on way to upgrading the existing police system in Pakistan," he said and recommended traditional and innovative reform options.

There is a dire need for restructuring the civilian law enforcement infrastructure as it was vital for effectively improving police performance."

Paucity of funds, lack of training on modern lines to curb crimes and usual lethargy had resulted in colossal losses to this force during war against terrorism and by the common outlaws.

Meanwhile, the office of the DIG Operations Lahore has claimed a visible decrease in crime rate during the month of January arresting thousands of suspects and proclaimed offenders during raids and combing operations across Punjab province.

It stated to arrest 720 Punjab from 255 gangs besides tracing 3,177 stolen vehicles and valuables worth Rs14293,881 claiming 30 percent reduction in vehicle and bike

theft calls and 19 percent decline in theft calls.

However, despite tall claims by the police force, the general perception of poor policing prevails among the masses as noble and respectable citizens most often shying away to approach police for redressal of their problems.

Perception of police in our society is that of a corrupt and subjugation squad instead of a people-friendly, efficient and honest force. Even retired police officials strongly advocate its revamping and putting it on modern lines to get desired results.

"In view of the prevailing approaches and attitudes in the police force, there is minimal hope for masses to get better services from this police department in near future," remarked Munib Hashmi, a retired police officer.

"Since purity and efficiency of the criminal justice system largely depend on police who feed the system, the future seems to be bleak for criminal justice in general," he added.

People often blame the force for their lethargic conduct and negligence. But, there are other important issues as well like wages and equipment provided the police personnel.

So, if they are less paid and poorly trained to combat the criminals who possess sophisticated weapons, how can one expect extraordinary performance from Police and mix up honest and efficient officials with the corrupt?

Therefore, the political and police authorities direly need to revisit the structure, facilities, duties and lapses to make it a respectable force that ensures safety and security of the common people.

Experts for 70% increase in tax on tobacco products

Spokesman Report

The experts at a webinar called upon the government to increase tax on tobacco products by 70% of their retail price, which is what they say are crucial to increase revenues in the face of the ailing economy.

The webinar on "Tobacco Taxation: Nostrum to the Ailing Economy" was organized by Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI) here on Monday, a news release said.

Dr Shafiqat Munir, Director of Resilient Development Programme, SDPI said Pakistan ranks 10th highest tobacco-consuming country which needs immediate attention from the government. Upholding the idea of 70% increase in tax on tobacco products, he urged the government to revisit fast-track progressive taxation regimes on tobacco to support the economy and reduce the incidence of tobacco-related diseases.

Asif Iqbal, Managing Director of the Social Policy and Development Centre (SPDC) said that if we plan to increase tax to 70%, we shall have to manage the price hike by the tobacco retailers. He said that FBR's track and trace system has effectively reduced under-reporting and illicit trade. He suggested adopting a medium-term tax policy to reduce speculation and data manipulation in the tobacco industry and ensure fair taxation for all. According to current estimates, up to a 70% increase in tax can generate over Rs 65 billion in revenues, he said.

Wasif Ali Naqvi, Senior Research Associate, SDPI said that 170,000 annual deaths are caused by tobacco along with cardiovascular and respiratory diseases, and cancers. Against the global decline in tobacco consumption, Pakistan has a 24% consumption rate and 10.7% of youth aged between 13-15 indulge in smoking.

Pakistan is a signatory to Framework Convention on Tobacco Control which suggests strengthening tobacco taxation and WHO suggests a 70% tax on the retail

price, he said, adding that currently, the federal excise duty is around 44.3% after the Tax Law Ordinance. He said that under-reporting by the tobacco industry from 2015-18 cost the country \$143 to \$448 million each year. He said that only two tobacco companies pay 98% of the entire tax while the remaining cumulatively pay 2% of the tax.

He elucidated that the volume of illicit trade increased from 23% to 40% from 2018 to 2020 and policy inconsistencies have been at the centre of the revenue losses. He suggested constituting a working group of FBR with representation from federal and provincial governments to work on tax measures for the forthcoming budget and bringing novel nicotine and tobacco products, chewable tobacco products and illicit trade in the tax policy regime.

Abdul Wahid Uqaili, Head for Track and Trace, FBR said that the track and trace system has been imposed in eight companies and is still in process for nine other registered companies. Stressing the need for educating the public regarding the track and trace system, he said each pack can be verified against the illegal sale and counterfeit. He further said that the track and trace system will also reduce the import burden in the tobacco, sugar and cement sector.

Ammar Rashid, Research Lead, Heartfile, said that under-reporting of production and sales must be countered. Research reports show that annual sales under-reporting is between 27% to 47% and financial under-reporting falls between 20% to 40%, he maintained.

He called for improving data availability on the consumption of tobacco products and the impact of the increase in tax and pricing on sales is crucial to come up with robust tax policies. He suggested making penalties stricter for tobacco companies in line with their profits.

Minhaj us Siraj, Chief Executive Officer, Syndicate Health, emphasized on conducting training for health advocates regarding tax proposals. He said the imposition of an effective tax regime is complicated, as the registered market is held by a few companies and the remaining market is infiltrated by illicit trade.

Ethiopia, Pakistan agree to boost bilateral cooperation for global peace

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia (FDRE) and the Islamic Republic of Pakistan on Monday agreed to further strengthen the bilateral cooperation on preserving the rules-based international order for global peace and security in the fast-changing global dynamism.

The resolve for boosting the cooperation in this regard was expressed during a meeting between Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the FDRE to Pakistan H.E. Jemal Beker Abdula and Additional Secretary (Africa), Ministry of Foreign Affairs Mr. Javed Ahmed Umrani.

Both dignitaries discussed different ways to enhance bilateral, regional and multilateral cooperation between the two countries. The entire gamut of bilateral relations between the two

countries was also reviewed during the meeting.

Ambassador H.E. Jemal Beker briefed the additional secretary on the ongoing peace process in Ethiopia and the commitment of Government of Ethiopia towards implementation of the cessation of hostilities agreement signed in Pretoria in November last year and progress achieved so far.

He also gave a detailed briefing to Mr. Umrani on the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam which was crucial to the regional integration and socio-economic development of the entire African continent.

The ambassador said the Government of Ethiopia was fully committed to the principle of equitable and reasonable utilization of transboundary water and the development of Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam was its true manifestation.

H.E. Jemal Beker also briefed the additional secretary on the preparations regarding a Pakistani business delegation flying to Ethiopia on 5-10 March 2023 for exploring business opportunities in the land of origins (Ethiopia).

He said the initiative would not only connect the two countries further but also help the Pakistani business community enter the Africa's 1.4 billion people market.

The Ethiopian Airlines would soon start its operations from Karachi to connect Pakistan with the rest of Africa which offered lucrative business opportunities to the Pakistani traders, the ambassador remarked.

Additional Secretary Javed Ahmed Umrani thanked H.E. Jemal Beker for a detailed briefing on different matters related to the bilateral relations between the two countries and



its future prospects.

He expressed the Government of

Pakistan's commitment to the ongoing peace process as well as reconstruction and rebuilding efforts in the northern parts of Ethiopia.

Mr. Umrani appreciated the Government of Ethiopia for pursuing the principle of equitable and reasonable utilization of transboundary water vis-a-vis the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam.

He hoped that a win-win solution would soon be reached among the relevant stakeholders in this regard.

The additional secretary also appreciated the FDRE Embassy in Islamabad for organizing a trade delegation to Ethiopia which would advance the bilateral relations between the two countries and also connect Pakistan with rest of Africa.

He urged the Pakistani traders to join in the delegation which was flying to Ethiopia in March.

Israel's violation of most elementary principles of humanity

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: The State of Palestine deplors Israel's recurrent targeted killings and the unlawful use of collective punishment in violation of most elementary principles of humanity, morality, dignity, and rule of law.

Today, Israel killed five Palestinians and injured tens of people. Since the beginning of this year, Israel has killed over 40 Palestinians with full impunity and

no accountability. The entire Palestinian people under Israel's illegal occupation are protected persons as per international law. Israel's indiscriminate punishment of the Palestinian people and massacres are war crimes and crimes against humanity and require actions beyond condemnations.

This is not a cycle of violence but rather a campaign of targeted killings against the Palestinian people. Israel contin-

ues to violate its obligations towards the protected population and disregards its binding duty to end the occupation.

Israel's deliberate and declared policy is clear: an entrenched system of subjugation and domination and an accelerated strategic fragmentation to prevent any resistance or collective expression to its oppression. Whether in Gaza, Jenin, or Jericho, Israel is trying to create irreversible facts on the ground

to sustain its illegal occupation and apartheid regime and pursue its annexationist policies.

The international community and the Secretary General of the United Nations must act, swiftly and concretely, to uphold international law to provide protection to the Palestinian people and bring a halt to Israel's grave breaches. The State of Palestine will not relent in its pursuit for accountability for Israel's crimes against our people.

Mirpur varsity observes 'Kashmir Solidarity Day' with rejuvenated resolve

Bureau Report

MIRPUR (AJK): In order to observe Kashmir Solidarity Day, Mirpur University of Science and Technology (MUST) hosted a grand ceremony on Monday, at the City Campus of the Varsity.

Directorate of Student's Affairs in collaboration with departments of Physics & Mathematics, Society of Sciences, MUST Media Society and MUST Blood Welfare Society managed the event.

Vice Chancellor MUST Brig (R) Prof Dr Muhammad Younus Javed, while addressing the ceremony, said that Indian occupational forces remained unsuccessful for decades to crumble & demoralize the prowess freedom-movement of the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

He said the oppression on Kashmiris had rejuvenated the resolve to fight for the just right of self-determination, which was being fuelled and nurtured by the valorous blood of the Shudha of Kashmir.

He further said that India was brazenly defying international laws and conventions for the last seventy-five years of seizure, through blackouts, arbitrary detentions, curfews, and imprisonments could not surrender the will of Kashmiris.

Kashmir Solidarity Day carries paramount significance, and reflects that the governments and the people of Pakistan and Azad Jammu and Kashmir stand wholeheartedly with oppressed Kashmiris and they are not alone in this hour of trial and deep turmoil, he said.

He urged that while living in the era digital world it is the prime responsibility of all of us to project and highlight the freedom struggle of brave people of Jammu and Kashmir on all available social media platforms and let the world know the ferocious acts of occupational forces.

GDA approves tourism policy for Gwadar

Correspondent

GWADAR: The Gwadar Development Authority (GDA) has approved a new tourism policy through its governing body in order to revamp and develop the sector to increase the revenue.

The construction work on the eco-tourism resorts, establishment of sea food restaurants, ferry services, beach parks, floating jetties and rest area was in full swing with allied facilities to cater the needs of local and foreign tourists visiting its beautiful coastal line.

An official of the GDA said that the work on the renovation of old buildings and archaeological sites had started to preserve the ancient civilization, and history of Gwadar city with the aim to promote tourism.

"Under the plan, dilapidated buildings will be restored for tourists to recall history, culture and heritage of the port city", he added.

He said Gwadar had a lot of potential to generate tourism opportunities, adding that there was a dire need to have a constructive approach for exploring the hidden beauty of the city.

He said the GDA would initiate new projects to further develop tourist facilities, hotels, rest houses and restaurants to provide relevant information to the visitors.

The official remarked that the boosting of tourism in the province would generate more jobs for the local community.

UK treasury signals no new money for defense



News Desk

ISLAMABAD: The UK Treasury has signaled that there is no money for defense despite recognizing the urgent need to rearm in the wake of Russia's war in Ukraine, Sky News reported on Sunday citing defense sources.

Britain will be unable to offer as many troops as NATO allies would expect to a major new force structure being drawn up by the alliance to bolster its defenses, the report added.

The comments came after Sky News last week revealed that a senior US general had told Defence Secretary Ben Wallace that the British Army is no longer regarded as a top level, or "tier one", fighting force following decades of cuts to its size and strength.

It is pertinent to note here that earlier on February 4, UK Prime Minister Rishi Sunak spoke with Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, and the two agreed on the importance of the international community speeding up assistance for Ukraine.

"The Prime Minister said he was focused on ensuring the UK's defensive military equipment reached the front line as quickly as possible," Sunak's office said in a statement.

Meeting

SIALKOT: H.E. MR. Khazar Farhadov Ambassador of The Republic of Azerbaijan to Pakistan discusses with president SCCI Abdul Ghafor Malik common business matters.



Photo: APP

China expresses condolences over Pervez Musharraf's death

Spokesman Report

BEIJING: China expressed deep condolences over the death of former president Pervez Musharraf, Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Mao Ning said on Monday.

"We extend our deep condolences over Mr. Musharraf's death and offer our sincere sympathy to his family," Mao told a press briefing.

Calling Musharraf an old friend of the Chinese people,

Mao noted that the former president had made a significant contribution to the development of China-Pakistan relations.

China stands ready to work with Pakistan to advance the iron-clad

friendship between the two countries, promote their all-weather strategic cooperative partnership, and build a closer China-Pakistan community with a shared future in the new era, said the spokesperson.

Australian High Commissioner offers technical assistance to address issue of 'brackish water'

Spokesman Report

MULTAN: Australian High Commissioner to Pakistan Mr. Neil Hawkins said his country was providing technical assistance to resolve the issue of brackish water in south Punjab.

While talking to Additional Chief Secretary Saqib Zafar, here on Monday, Mr. Neil Hawkins stated that both Pakistan and Australia enjoyed friendly relationships.

"Australia is also imparting assistance to Pakistan in the field of hybrid seeds," he added.

The high commissioner took a keen interest in development projects being initiated in south Punjab.



He also appreciated the establishment of an educational institute for transgressors.

Earlier, Additional Chief Secretary Saqib Zafar maintained that south Punjab was a culturally rich region of Pakistan.

"The region has immense potential for tourism. Cholistan Desert Jeep Rally got immense admiration from across the globe. Besides, South Punjab is also an agriculture hub and serves as a food basket for the whole of Pakistan," he said.

About the South Punjab secretariat, he maintained that it was facilitating the region in addressing the problems at the gross root level. Similarly, a good number of development projects particularly health and education have been initiated across the region.

Special prayers held for quake-hit Turkish brothers at Pakistan Embassy event

Spokesman Report

ANKARA: Special prayers were held for Turkish brothers affected by earthquake at an event held here at Pakistan Embassy on Monday.

The event was initially organized to observe Kashmir Solidarity Day, to express solidarity with the oppressed Kashmiri people in their just and legitimate struggle for the realization of their inalienable right to self-determination, a press release issued by Pakistan Embassy said.

Speaking at the occasion, Ambassador of Pakistan to Türkiye Dr. Yousaf Junaid expressed heartfelt condolences over the loss of precious lives and devastating damages to property from earthquake in Türkiye.

He reaffirmed complete solidarity with Turkish brethren in his hour of grief and stated that rescue and relief teams along with relief assistance from Pakistan will reach Türkiye very soon.

Special prayers held for quake-hit Turkish brothers at Pakistan Embassy event

Earlier, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif offered condolences and expressed solidarity with the people and government of Türkiye in this



trying time during a telephone call with President Recep Tayyip Erdogan.

Expressing solidarity with the Kashmiris, Ambassador Dr Yousaf Junaid reiterated unwavering political, moral and diplomatic support to the people of Kashmir until the resolution of the dispute in accordance with UNSC resolutions and aspiration of the Kashmiri people.

He called on the international community to take practical steps to hold India accountable for the gross human rights violations in the Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IOJK) and fulfill the promise made by the United Nations to the Kashmiri people.

Bull & Bears
PSX 100-Share
Index Fluctuation

Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index

Current	Prev. Close
41,190.77	40,471.16
Day's High	Day's Low:
41,302.29	40,471.16
Index Value	Change
8,158,393,535	+719.61
Percentage	Time
+1.78%	6 Feb, 2023 5: 00 pm

Europe: FTSE 100 Index

Index Value	Change
7,836.71	-65.09
Percentage	Time
-0.82%	6 Feb, 4: 35 pm GMT

USA: Dow Jones Industrial Average

Index Value	Change
33,839.05	-86.96
Percentage	Time
-0.26%	6 Feb, 11: 41 am GMT-5

Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average

Index Value	Change
27,693.65	+184.19
Percentage	Time
+0.67%	6 Feb, 3: 15 pm GMT+9

Open Market Forex Rates

Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	190.31	192.71
Bahrain Dinar	732.23	740.23
Canadian Dollar	205.22	207.42
China Yuan	40.72	41.12
Danish Krone	39.92	40.32
Euro	296.66	297.26
Hong Kong Dollar	35.08	35.43
Indian Rupee	3.35	3.46
Japanese Yen	2.5	2.54
Kuwaiti Dinar	900.32	909.32
Malaysian Ringgit	64.65	65.25
New Zealand \$	174.19	176.19
Norwegians Krone	27.12	27.42
Omani Riyal	715.11	723.11
Qatari Riyal	75.64	76.34
Saudi Riyal	73.21	73.51
Singapore Dollar	208.03	210.03
Swedish Korona	26.1	26.4
Swiss Franc	297.31	299.81
Thai Bhat	8.25	8.4
U.A.E Dirham	74.80	75.10
UK Pound Sterling	331.71	332.41
US Dollar	275.04	275.54

Sale of cheap Iranian petrol should be allowed in border areas, says Mian Zahid Hussain

Tariq Khattak

ISLAMABAD: Chairman of National Business Group Pakistan, President Pakistan Businessmen and Intellectuals Forum, and All Karachi Industrial Alliance, and former provincial minister Mian Zahid Hussain on Monday said the private sector of almost the entire world, including western countries, is disobeying sanctions imposed on Russia.

Hundreds of oil tankers are quietly selling Russian oil around the world for many months and the number of such ships is constantly increasing, he said.

Mian Zahid Hussain said that the oil tankers are being paid ten times more than usual and that is why shipping has become the most profitable business in the world.

Talking to the business community, the veteran business leader said that the business community is reaping handsome profits by



conducting business with Russia and it is minimizing the risk of recession in the world.

The business leader said that at present thirty percent of Russian oil is being sold quietly

without any trace of it.

Many countries, including China, are also engaged in ensuring their energy security by storing Russian oil on a large scale, he added.

He said that a huge increase in the suspicious movement of ships has been noticed; in the South Atlantic alone, there has been a 470% increase in the suspicious activities of ships in 2022 compared to 2021. A 150 percent increase in suspicious activity has been recorded in the Central Atlantic, while a 100 percent increase in suspicious activity has been recorded in the shipping hub of Greece.

The Western countries that took the lead in imposing sanctions on Russia also understand the situation, but action against even one ship would mean a new global crisis and an intolerable rise in oil prices, which oil-importing countries do not want because they are already under financial stress.

The United States is also not in a position to

take the risk of meddling with the oil market at this time because the United States has experienced eight recessions in its history, six of which were linked to oil prices, while the economic conditions of the United States affect the entire world.

Mian Zahid Hussain further said that companies working in many other sectors are also secretly doing business with Russia, in which they are getting much more profit than usual which is stabilizing the Russian economy.

He informed that Pakistani smugglers are buying the cheapest diesel and petrol from Iran and selling it in Pakistan, and if it is brought legally, then the people of Pakistani cities near the Iranian border will be able to get legitimate and legal employment.

The burden on the economy will be slightly reduced with the help of Iranian fuel, besides there is a need to speed up efforts to get cheap oil from Russia.

KE, CTGSAIL Ink MoU to Explore 1 GW Renewable Energy Projects

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Committed to providing clean, affordable, and sustainable power for people of Pakistan including K-Electric's growing base of over 3.4 million customers, CEO K-Electric, Mr. Syed Moonis Abdullah Alvi and Mr. Wang Minsheng, CEO China Three Gorges South Asia Investment Limited (CTGSAIL) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to collaborate on exploring renewable energy including hydro projects across the country, including Azad Jammu & Kashmir. Both companies will also work to develop a roadmap for the installation of grid-scale Battery Energy Storage Systems into KE's network.

China Three Gorges South Asia Investment Ltd (CTGSAIL) is a subsidiary of the China Three Gorges International Corporation (CTGI), which is the international business platform of China Three Gorges Corporation (CTG), focusing on clean energy investment, development and operation in more than 40 countries. CTGSAIL has 2.6 GW of generation assets in Pakistan worth over USD 6 Billion and is actively undertaking investments in hydel, wind, solar, and PV power projects across emerging markets in Asia, Middle East and North Africa.

"This is a milestone moment for Karachi and its customers, and I am very pleased to be present here today," stated Moonis Alvi on the occasion. "We are actively working to contribute positively to the country's



ambition to increase share of clean, sustainable, and affordable energy in our mix. It is exciting to be exploring these new frontiers with global giants CTGSAIL as partners. Their global experience will help take our efforts forward by leaps and bounds, and we look forward to working closely with them. Pakistan is no stranger to climate change, and the time for action is today. Induction of renewable energy is crucial to balance affordability for our customers with the impact on the environment."

CEO of CTGSAIL, Wang Minsheng while speaking on the occasion stated that this would be one more step by CTGSAIL for Cleaner Energy, Better Pakistan. CTGSAIL in line with the philosophy of "Belt and Road Initiative" of innovation, integration, mutual development and inclusion of local expertise has ventured with K-Electric for providing solutions for low-cost, clean energy which is the corner-

stone for economic growth in all emerging economies. Green energy not only helps solve the problem of climate change, but also provides competitive advantage to the industrial consumers through cost optimization. Considering recent floods in Pakistan, we strongly believe that the addition of renewable energy sources in the country's energy mix is becoming a necessity. We hope that this partnership yields great results for both organizations and culminates in the joint implementation of renewable energy projects in Pakistan.

On the occasion, KE's Chief Marketing & Communications Officer Ms. Sadia Dada, Head of Business Development Mr. Mudassar Zuberi were accompanied by Senior Advisor Mr. N.A. Zuberi, Deputy General Manager Project Development Mr. Mustafa Umar Riaz from CTGSAIL. Other senior members from both organizations were also present.

ZONG 4G partners with BYKEA to offer bundles and top-ups on the app

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's leading digital and telecommunication, ZONG 4G has announced its partnership with Bykea. Staying true to its vision of offering convenience through innovation to its customers, Zong 4G bundles and mobile-top-ups are now available on the BYKEA app.

Zong 4G has a vision to be truly customer centric and make it super easy for subscribers to use its services while on the go. Through this partnership, BYKEA driver partners and passengers will now be able to subscribe to Zong 4G mobile bundles while using the BYKEA app and will also be able to top-up their mobile credit.

Both organizations are excited to see the new feature



go live. Abdul Mannan, Chief Information Officer at Bykea states, "Making communications convenient and going cashless are the visionary foundations of this partnership. Our Driver Partners usually have access to the petty cash at the end of the rides and topping mobile phones up is also a challenge for partners and passengers; by putting both of these situations together, we can solve the challenge and provide options to the partners to top up their phone credit."

Martin Dow Group joins hands with ABHI to provide earned wage access to its employees



Bureau Report

KARACHI: Martin Dow partners with ABHI to provide Earned Wage Access to its employees.

ABHI is offering Earned Wage Access to hundreds of companies as a financial wellness benefit to their employees. The new partnership with Martin Dow aims to provide a comfortable environment for their employees to work and thrive in. ABHI is providing Earned Wage Access (EWA), which will enable the healthcare group employees to access their earned salaries before their payday, allowing them to make immediate financial decisions with ease and improve their financial wellbeing.

On the day of signing Shahrukh Masood - Group Director HR & Corporate Communications said "In this era of disruption, Martin Dow has taken another step towards financially empowering its employees to take control of their finances with just a snap of a finger. Being a leading employer of choice, it is our responsibility to be on the cutting edge of advancement at all levels. We will continue to invest in our people and create opportunities for all our partners to flourish."

Mohammad Zaidi, Director at ABHI said, "We're proud to partner with Martin Dow, one of Pakistan's major healthcare groups, to financially empower their workforce. This shows their commitment and progressive thinking towards the wellness of their employees, hence, providing their workforce a better chance to counter the rising inflation."

Presenting the shield

Mr. Irfan Iqbal Sheikh, President FPCCI, is presenting the commemorative shield to Dr. Abdul Bari Khan, Founding President Indus Hospital. Mr. Shaukat Omerson, VP FPCCI; Mian Nasser Hyatt Maggo, immediate past President FPCCI; Mr. Amjad Rafi and others were also present on this occasion.



ICCI to support Chakwal CCI for establishment of industrial estate in Chakwal

Tariq Khattak

ISLAMABAD: Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) said that Chakwal is a very suitable place for the establishment of an industrial zone as it is located on the Motorway and provides easy access to Rawalpindi and Islamabad. He said that the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce will fully support the Chakwal Chamber of Commerce and Industry in the efforts to estab-

lish an industrial zone in the Chakwal region.

He said that the completion of this important project will promote industrial activities and investment in the area and start a new era of development and prosperity for the region. He said this while addressing a luncheon reception hosted by Khawaja Arif Yustuf, Former President, Chakwal Chamber of Commerce and Industry and its Coordinator in honor of newly elected President ICCI Ahsan Zafar Bakht-

awari, newly elected President of Chakwal Chamber of Commerce and Industry Waqar Zafar Bakhtawari and Senior Vice President Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry Hamza Sarosh.

Zafar Bakhtawari Secretary General UBG, Dr. Hasan Sarosh former President RCCI, former provincial minister Sardar Yasir Sarfraz, FPCCI Vice President Qazi Muhammad Akbar, former Presidents Chakwal Chamber of Commerce Khurram Kamran, Nazir Sultan, Shahzad



Sadat, Malik Ghulam Murtaza, the luncheon reception. Sheikh Haroon and Noor Sultan, Waqar Zafar Bakhtawari, President, Chakwal Chamber of Commerce and Industry said in his

Pakistan thrash Bangladesh in Women's T20 WC warm-up clash

A Sports -

CAPE TOWN: Pakistan started their ICC Women's T20 World Cup 2023 on a winning note with a comfortable six-wicket victory over Bangladesh in the warm-up match here on Monday.

After opting to bat first, Bangladesh's batting lineup could not live up to the expectation of their skipper as the side could pile up 101/7 in the set of 20 overs despite Shamima Sultan top-scoring with 36.

Bangladesh had a dismal start to their innings as they lost opener Salma Khatun (8) for a mere 13 runs in the fourth over. Following this, Sobhana Mostary and Shamima stitched an important 38-run partnership for the second wicket before the former perished in the 10th over after scoring 18 off 21.

Shamima then put on a brief 20-run partnership with skipper Nigar Sultana



(15) before eventually falling in the 14th over after scoring 36 off 41 deliveries and smashing three boundaries.

The rest of the Bangladesh batters remained clueless against disciplined Pakistan's bowling attack as six of their

batters failed to amass double figures.

Experienced all-rounder Nida Dar and Nashra Sandhu led the bowling attack for Pakistan with two wickets each, while Sadia Iqbal, Aiman Anwer and Tuba Hasan made one scalp each.

Set to chase a meagre 102, Pakistan comfortably clinched a confidence-boosting victory by six wickets and 24 balls to spare.

Skipper Bismah Maroof led from the front after a shaky start and remained the joint top-scorer for her side with Nida Dar as both scored 24.

Hard-hitting batter Ayesha Naseem then struck a quick 20 off just 10 balls to make sure Pakistan sail through in a dominant fashion.

The Green Shirts will now take South Africa in their next warm-up match on Wednesday before starting their main round campaign against arch-rivals India on Sunday (February 12).

2023 Inter Club Golf

Sports Desk

LAHORE: In the 2023 Inter Club Golf Teams contest between the 20 members Defence Raya Team, the Royal Palm Golf Team and Lahore Gymkhana Golf Team, the proficient Lahore Gymkhana Team ended up elated and annihilated through consistency and exceptional application of golfing skills the challenge posed by teams of Royal Palm and Defence Raya Golf Club. Spread over three days, this championship of merited golf players was contested the first day at Defence Raya Golf Course on alternate shots format, the second day at Royal Palm Golf Course on foursome format and the final third day at Lahore Gymkhana Golf Course on singles match play basis. After the first day the points position was Gymkhana 23, Royal Palm 20 and Defence Raya 17 which after the second days activity changed to Gymkhana 48, Royal Palm 47 and Defence Raya 25.

At the start of the final day it was Lahore Gymkhana in the lead with Gymkhana placed at 48 points, Royal Palm at 47 points, just one

stroke behind and Defence Raya at 25 points after the completion of first two rounds competition.

The final 18 holes competition yesterday at Lahore Gymkhana Golf Course was pivotal and at stake in the singles match play contest was a total of 60 points which means that the ultimate triumphant one could have been either Lahore Gymkhana and Royal Palm.



Because of the points difference Defence Raya Team was at a disadvantage.

Final round was singles match play and as the championship progressed noticeable was the intensity of Gymkhana players. Accurate hitting off the tees was their hall mark and familiarity with their home course a huge strong point in their ascendancy.

And ascend they certainly did. Those who fetched Gymkhana two points each through their marvellous effort were Omer Farooq, Omer Zia, Sameer Iftikhar, Salman Jehangir, Ammar Hameed, Aasim Zafar Khan, Shah Nawaz Durrani, Razaurrehman, Dawar Lashari, Osman Khan and Tanvir Najm Butt. A few other team members who contributed to the points compilation were

Dr Arshed Mehmood, Farhan Bhatti, Mohsin Anwar, Ahsan Khawaja, Qasim Ali Khan and Zunair Aleem Khan. Their combined effort enabled the Gymkhana Golf Team to command their way to supremacy with a total compilation of 79 points followed by Royal Palm 61.5 points and Defence Raya 39.5 points. In this way, Gymkhana brought off victory

in 2023 and as for history, out of a total of 8 Inter Club Contests held over the years, Lahore Gymkhana has won four times.

In this effort of emerging as runners up, the Royal Palm team members who performed admirably for Royal Palm were Abdul Islam, Abbas Choudry, Hassan Atta, Rana Imran, Usman Cheema, Mohsen Zafar, Damil Atatullah, Hussain Hamid, Asim Tiwana and Shahid Abbas.

The Captains of the teams were Taha Mehmood (Gymkhana), Abdullah Sharif (Royal Palm) and Sardar Mehmood (Defence Raya).

Although Defence Raya Team did not fare well, a few of their players were outstanding. They are Shameer Maajid, Taimoor Shabbir, Col Asif Mehdi, Umair Butt, Sardar Murad, Asfandyar Khan, Azfar Hassan and Dr Dildar Hussain. Other team members did not perform as per ability.

A pronounced victory for the twenty members Lahore Gymkhana Golf Team accomplished through tenacity, singlemindedness and skillful application of golfing skills.

'My daughters are not on social media,' clarifies Shahid Afridi

KARACHI: Former Pakistan cricket team captain Shahid Afridi clarified on Monday that his daughters are not on social media after an account impersonating one of his daughters emerged on Twitter.

The former captain shared a screenshot of a fake account impersonating his daughter Ansha on Twitter.

The former captain's daughter Ansha tied the knot with pacer Shaheen Shah Afridi last week.

"This is to confirm that my daughters are not on social media and accounts impersonating them are fake," tweeted Afridi and urged his followers to report the fake account.

Afridi's daughter Ansha tied the knot with star pacer Shaheen Shah Afridi on February 4 in a Karachi mosque.

After the Nikah, a reception was held where cricketers Babar Azam, Sarfaraz Ahmed, Naseem Shah and Shadab Khan, as well as squash legend Jahangir Khan were in attendance.

As soon as the pictures went viral, fans and followers wanted to see how the bride and groom looked. However, the couple left them wondering and curious, as they requested the guests to "turn off" their cell phones.

A big note, which was placed at the entrance of the venue, said: "The bride and groom cordially request you all to join them in an Unplugged Ceremony. Let's disconnect and be fully present in this special moment."

Javed Miandad says India can 'go to hell' amid Asia Cup controversy

A Sports -

KARACHI: Former Pakistan captain and legendary batter Javed Miandad lashed out at arch-rivals India amid the ongoing controversy regarding the hosting of this year's Asia Cup.

The controversy came to light last year amid the ICC Men's T20 World Cup when the Board of Cricket Control in India (BCCI) announced that their national men's team will not tour Pakistan for Asia Cup 2023.

According to the Indian, the decision was taken following the 91st BCCI Annual General Meeting (AGM) and the reports further suggested that BCCI Secretary Jay Shah, who is also the president of the Asian Cricket Council (ACC) hinted

at shifting the tournament to a neutral venue.

"Neutral venue for Asia Cup is not unprecedented and we have decided that we will not travel to Pakistan," Shah stated.

"I have decided that we will play at a neutral venue," he maintained.

Following BCCI Secretary's unilateral decision, the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) wrote a formal complaint to the Asian Cricket Council (ACC) and requested the ACC to call an emergency meeting in light of the current situation.

The PCB management then also hinted at pulling out of the upcoming ICC Men's ODI World Cup, scheduled in India as an act of protest against Shah's remarks.

Meanwhile, Pakistan's batting



great Miandad reacted to the ongoing controversy and did not mince his words as he lashed out at the arch-rivals India.

"I have always been saying, if India doesn't want to come, we don't care. They can go to hell. We are getting our cricket. It's

ICC's job to control such things, else there's no point of having a governing body," Miandad said while speaking to the media.

"ICC should have one rule for every country. If such teams don't come, no matter how strong they are, you should

remove them.

"They should play, why aren't they playing? They are afraid of consequences.

"Even in our times, they would not play because they were afraid of consequences. India's crowd is 'nasty'. Whenever India would lose, no matter against whom, they would burn houses. That's what they are afraid of."

It is pertinent to mention here that India last toured Pakistan in 2008 to partake in the Asia Cup.

The two sides last played a bilateral series in 2012-13 when Pakistan toured India for three T20Is and as many ODIs.

Since then, the two arch-rivals did not play a bilateral series and only met in ICC and ACC events.

Nouman Malik rocks with latest 'Lahore Qalandar Anthem'



Tahir Amin Malik

ISLAMABAD: Lahore set to vibe with yet another melodious anthem as Nouman Malik dropped the rocking title track "Main Hoon Qalandar."

Registering a great victory in PSL 2022, Lahore Qalandar was hailed for its tremendous and untiring efforts in the years of super league's history.

As the exciting & much-awaited eighth season of the Pakistan Super League is just around the corner, fans are also eager to be enthralled by amazing cricket anthems.

Hyping up the thrill, the Beparwah singer released the official song for 'Lahore Qalandar' ensuring a musical treat for all the cricket fans.

According to the official description of the song, this track is an expression to showcase the love for the beautiful & marvelous city of Lahore.

"A treat for all Lahore Qalandar and PSL fans around the globe. This song is just an expression of how much I love my beloved city. It is dedicated to all Lahore Qalandar and PSL fans," captioned the singer.

Along with attributing the song, Malik also hoped for a tremendous sports event ahead, while wishing both the teams and management.

"PSL is our pride and one of the best cricket leagues around the globe. Best of luck to all teams and may we have a great PSL 8th edition," stated the singer.

Released recently, the track has already surpassed 79 thousand views on YouTube while eyeing more.

Iftikhar Ahmed departs for Bangladesh after exhibition match

A Sports -

KARACHI: Pakistan's in-form batter Iftikhar Ahmed has departed for Bangladesh to represent Fortune Barishal in the ongoing Bangladesh Premier League (BPL).

Iftikhar, who is in red-hot form, returned to Bangladesh after his batting exploits in the exhibition match at Quetta's Bugti Stadium against Peshawar Zalmi on Sunday.

According to the sources, the right-handed batter will represent the Barishal in one more match before eventually travelling back to the country for the upcoming eighth edition of the Pakistan Super League (PSL).

Amid his brilliant 50-ball 94, Iftikhar also thwacked six consecutive sixes to left-arm pacer Wahab Riaz to boost his PSL side Quetta Gladiators' total to 184/5, which in the end, turned out to be sufficient as the Zalmi fell three short.

Meanwhile, following his heroics in the exhibition match, the middle-order batter has departed for Bangladesh via Dubai.

Taking to Twitter, Iftikhar thanked the people of Quetta for their love and respect while expressing his desire to continue his momentum.

"Thank you, Quetta for the love and respect. Transit in Dubai - heading to Bangladesh for one more game tomorrow," wrote Iftikhar.

"Hoping to continue my momentum for my team Fortune Barishal and end on a high note, In sha Allah," he added.

Turkey earthquake: Sania Mirza, Shoaib Malik respond to catastrophe

Considering the situation's gravity, the Indian celebrity athlete took to Twitter asking God for mercy.

"Ya Allah reham," Sania tweeted with emoji of hands lifted for prayers followed by



"Turkey and Syria" as well as an emoji of a broken heart.

Sania, via her tweet, expressed her heartbreak at the catastrophic quakes which have rendered people of the two nations vulnerable in the bitter winter weather.

Meanwhile, Malik, too, took to the micro-blogging site to extend his sympathies to those impacted by the natural disaster.

"Let us not give up to these challenging times," Malik tweeted.

In his tweet, the cricketer extended his "deepest sympathies" to the victims for their "loss".

"Please accept my deepest sympathies for your loss in this natural disaster..." he wrote on the bird app.

Under his tweet, Malik also shared an image that read: "Prayers for Turkey, Syria, Lebanon, Jordan, Iraq, Palestine and all affected places!"

Berlin Special Olympics: Head Coach Glenn Cundari arrives in Pakistan to train coaches

Sports Desk

KARACHI: Glenn Cundari, head coach of International Special Olympics Canada, arrived here on a one-week visit where he will provide further training to Pakistani coaches for the Special Olympics World Games.

Upon his arrival in Karachi, the chairperson of Special Olympics Pakistan Ronak Lakhani, and other officials welcomed him.

It should be noted that in connection with the preparations for the Special Olympic World Games to be played in Berlin, Germany this year from June 17 to 25, the training camp of the national players was organized at Karachi Port Trust Sports Complex.

Head coach Glenn Cundari



ari visited the camp along with Ronak Lakhani and reviewed the performance of the coaches and players.

On this occasion, Glenn Cundari said that he was very happy to come to Pakistan and acknowl-

edged the country's services for sports contribution.

"The coaching seminar will prove to be very useful for the Pakistani coaches through which they will be able to provide the best training and guidance to the

special athletes in the future. And in light of this, the performance of Pakistan's special athletes will continue to improve," he added.

Glenn Cundari said that special athletes "are an inspiration for us". It is hoped that these specials will perform well for their country in the World Games.

Ronak Lakhani said that the arrival of Glenn to Pakistan is an honour for them.

A two-day coaching seminar is being organized for Pakistani coaches of different sports of Special Olympics in a local hotel in Karachi, in which head coach Glenn Cundari would teach the methods of different sports of Special Olympics.

He said that the coaching seminar will not only give oppor-



tunities to our local coaches to train under the supervision of

international coaches in their own country, but it will also

provide them exposure at the international level.