

Daily  
The Spokesman

RAWALPINDI



## Message on the Auspicious 44 Anniversary of the Islamic Revolution

In the name of Allah, As the ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran, its matter of pride for me to congratulate all the lovers and admirers of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Pakistan and other parts of the world on the 44th anniversary of the victory of the Islamic Revolution of Iran. (See Page 5)



## Planning Minister for adopting export-oriented policies

Federal Minister for Planning Development and Special Initiatives Ahsan Iqbal on Tuesday reiterated that the govt is committed to facilitate the country's exports and urged them to adopt export-oriented policies for the public and the private sectors to accelerate export-led growth. The Minister was chairing a roundtable with country's exporters to review the progress of the exports and issues being faced by them. (Report on Page 8)

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## Rescue efforts

Rescue efforts continue at collapsed Iskenderun State Hospital annex building after 7.7 magnitude earthquake hits Hatay, Turkey -



Photo: Sezgin Pancar/Anadolu Agency

## Turkiye, Syria earthquake: Emergency announced for three months

## Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The death toll from the devastating earthquakes in Turkiye and Syria crossed the 5000 mark, as hectic rescue and recovery operations were underway in a bid to rescue as many people trapped in the rubble as possible in freezing weather, international media reported Tuesday.

President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has declared seven days of national mourning and three month state of emergency in 10 provinces worst affected by the deadly earthquake, BBC news reported on Tuesday.

Erdogan said the death toll in Turkey has risen to 3,549 people, while more than 1,600 people are reported to have died in Syria.

Meanwhile, the world leaders have pledged to send aid after Turkiye issued an international appeal for help.

Authorities fear the death toll from Monday's pre-dawn magnitude 7.8 temblor, followed by a magnitude 7.6 earthquake and several aftershocks will



Firefighters rescued a one-year-old girl from the rubble in quake-hit southern Turkiye

continue to climb as rescuers looked for survivors among tangles of metal and concrete spread across a region.

Adelheid Marschang, a WHO senior emergency officer, has said about 23 million people, including 1.4 million children, are likely to be affected by the quake, The Guardian reported.

Turkiye, Syria earthquake: Over 5000 died; emergency announced for three months in affected provinces

As per The Guardian, Turkish Vice President Fuat Oktay said more than 8000 people had been pulled from debris in Turkiye while about 380,000 had taken refuge in government shelters and hotels with others huddling in shopping malls, Mosques and community centres.

Orhan Tatar, an official with Turkey's Disaster and Emergency Management Authority (AFAD), said earlier on Tuesday that 20,426 others were injured. Tatar said more than 5,700 buildings had also been destroyed.

In Syria, at least 1,602 people were killed and about 3,500 others were injured, according to the Ministry of Health and the White Helmets rescue organisation.

The regional director of the Mercy Corps humanitarian aid organisation says the situation in northern Syria is "pretty similar" to Turkey's.

Turkiye, Syria earthquake: Over 5000 died; emergency announced for three

months in affected provinces

Rescuers in Turkiye are battling heavy rain and snow as they race against the clock to find survivors of the earthquake that struck in the early hours of Monday.

The World Health Organization has warned the toll may rise dramatically as rescuers find more victims.

The United States Geological Survey said the initial earthquake was centred about 33km (20 miles) from Gaziantep, a major Turkish city and provincial capital.

Dozens of countries from around the world have promised help in search and rescue operations that are being hampered by cold and snow.

The Turkish region of Duzce suffered a 7.4-magnitude earthquake in 1999, when more than 17,000 people died - including about 1,000 in Istanbul.

Experts have long warned a large quake could devastate Istanbul, a megalopolis of 16 million people filled with rickety homes.

The last 7.8-magnitude tremor shook Turkey in 1939, when 33,000 died in the eastern Erzincan province.

## Pervoz Musharraf's funeral prayers offered in Karachi



## Bureau Report

KARACHI: The funeral prayers of former president General (retd) Pervoz Musharraf were offered at a mosque in Malir Cantonment's Polo Ground on Tuesday.

The former army chief, who passed away in Dubai on Feb 5, will be laid to rest at military graveyard near Kala Pull.

Former army chiefs Qamar Javed Bajwa, Ashfaq Parvez Kayani and Aslam Beg attended the funeral. On Monday night, a special plane from Dubai carrying Musharraf's body landed at the Karachi airport.

## PM sets up relief fund for quake-hit Turkiye

Appeals Pakistanis to donate generously

## Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday established a relief fund to help earthquake-hit people of Turkiye, appealing to people of Pakistan particularly the businessmen and philanthropists to donate to the fund generously.

The decision was taken in the meeting of the federal cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif which expressed condolence over the hundreds of quake-caused deaths in Turkiye and Syria, and offered Fatcha for the departed souls.

The federal cabinet announced to donate one month salary to the relief fund. It was also decided that the federal government employees of grade 18 to 22 would donate one day salary for the distressed Turkish people.

The prime minister told the cabinet members that Turkiye had been

at forefront to support the people of Pakistan after unprecedented floods hit the country in 2022.

"The Pakistani nation would not leave their Turkish brethren alone in this hour of ordeal. I am also leaving for Turkiye by tomorrow to visit the quake-ravaged areas of Turkiye," he remarked.

He told the cabinet members that besides relief goods, the rescue teams were immediately dispatched for Turkiye to support the relief activities.

He assured that Pakistan would extend every possible support to the people of Turkiye and Syria as the whole Pakistani nation stood by the suffering people.

The cabinet meeting offered Fatcha for peace of the departed souls and early recovery of the injured.

The members also offered Fatcha for the departed soul of the brother-in-law of Commerce Minister Syed Naveed Qamar.

The prime minister mentioned

his Monday's telephonic interaction with Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan in which he conveyed condolences and assured all-out support.

He told the meeting that the PIA and PAF flights as well as rescue teams, doctors and paramedics have been dispatched for Turkiye. Moreover, the supply of the relief goods will continue, he added.

The federal cabinet approved to restart the process for appointment of National Bank of Pakistan president, instructing to complete the process immediately.

The federal cabinet formed a cabinet committee to deliberate over the draft of Criminal Laws Amendment Bill 2023 and present a report in the next cabinet meeting.

The committee comprises Federal Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah, Law Minister Azam Nazeer Tarar, Economic Affairs Minister Sardar Ayaz Sadiq and representatives of the coalition parties.

## PM sets up relief fund for Turkish quake victims: Marriyum



## City Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Information and Broadcasting Marriyum Aurangzeb said on Tuesday that Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif had decided to establish the Prime Minister's Relief Fund to support the earthquake victims of brotherly country, Turkiye.

In a tweet, the minister said the federal cabinet had announced to donate one month salary to the relief fund.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has appealed to affluent people to help generously for earthquake victims of Turkiye.

## Nation stands by Govt, Forces to exterminate terrorism: President



## Bureau Report

PESHAWAR: President Dr Arif Alvi, referring to tragic blast incident at Police Lines, Tuesday expressed the resolve to exterminate terrorism as the Government and Armed Forces had full support of the entire nation.

He expressed these views during a visit to the Lady Reading Hospital where he enquired after health of injured persons of Police Lines' mosque blast. Caretaker Chief Minister, Muhammad Azam Khan also accompanied him.

The President said the nation, Security Forces did combat terrorism in an unprecedented manner and they would once again collectively fight the menace.

He talked to the doctors and

hospital administration about the well-being of the injured. He expressed solidarity with families of martyrs and prayed for the early recovery of injured persons.

Dr Arif Alvi also enquired after the health of an injured woman and consoled martyrdom of her family members.

The President noted with satisfaction the appropriate medical treatment to the injured of the blast at Lady Reading Hospital. He lauded the doctors and LRFH administration for ensuring prompt and quality treatment to the blast victims.

Dr Arif Alvi said the nation stood with families of the martyrs and prayed for the speedy recovery of the injured persons.

## Imran Khan claims 'two waziristan assassins hired to kill me'

## News desk

LAHORE: Former prime minister and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan has claimed that two assassins from South Waziristan have been hired to assassinate him, ARY News reported on Tuesday.

According to details, the former premier made these claims while chairing a meeting of PTI spokesperson at his residence in Lahore's Zaman Park.

Speaking during the meeting, Imran Khan said that his assassination plot has been hatched as 'two professional assassins from South Waziristan were hired to kill me'. The PTI chief further claimed that he has all evidence about the assassination plot.

He pointed out the Wazirabad assassination attempt, saying that he already knew about the plan before the shooting. He insisted that three shooters were involved in the incident, citing a report of joint investigation team (JIT) - formed to probe the attack.

It is pertinent to mention here that Imran Khan and several other PTI leaders were wounded in an assassination attempt after a man opened fire near the PTI reception camp in Wazirabad during party's long march.

Earlier, Imran Khan alleged that former president and Pakistan People's Party (PPP) co-Chairman Asif Ali Zardari was among four people who were planning to kill him, ARY News reported on Friday.

Imran Khan accused Zardari of being involved in the assassination attempt, saying that the former president was among four people who were planning to kill him.

"Zardari has given Sindh government's money to a terrorist organization to assassinate me," the PTI chief alleged, adding that they were using Sindh government's 'looted money' against him.

He further said, "They think that the only way to get me out of the way is actually to eliminate," believing that efforts were underway to save those 'four people'.

## Islamabad Court rejects Sheikh Rasheed's bail plea

## Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: A local court in Islamabad on Tuesday rejected Awami Muslim League (AML) chief and former interior minister Sheikh Rasheed Ahmed's post-arrest bail plea in a case related to levelling allegations against former president Asif Ali Zardari.

Judicial Magistrate Umer Shabbir pronounced the verdict which he reserved earlier today.

Judicial Magistrate Umar Shabbir heard the case, while Rasheed's lawyer Sardar Abdur Razaq and Intezar Panjhoti appeared before the court.

During today's hearing, Rasheed's counsel maintained that his client only faced the former premier, who is facing life threats. "Sheikh Rasheed did not hurled accusations against Zardari but he only

quoted Imran Khan."

He also raised questions about swift action against the former interior minister.

Rasheed's counsel maintained that investigators have not found anything suspicious during the physical remand of Rasheed.

However, the court in its verdict allowed the AML chief to sign his nomination papers for the NA-60 and NA-62 by-polls.

Rasheed, who is a close aide of PTI chairman Imran Khan, is currently on a 14-day judicial remand.

The Awami Muslim League (AML) chief was arrested from his Rawalpindi residence in the early hours of last Thursday and is currently on two-physical remand in a case of levelling allegations of setting a 'murder plot' for Imran Khan against Asif Ali Zardari.

## Relief items

LAHORE: NDMA dispatches 9 ton cargo loaded with relief items for Quake-Hit Turkiye.



Photo: APP

## AiIB appreciates govt's reforms, economic policies

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Chief Economist of Asian Infrastructure and Investment Bank (AIIB), Erik Berglof here on Tuesday appreciated the economic policies and reforms of the present government for social uplift of the masses.

During a call on meeting with Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar, Berglof highlighted the role of AIIB in infrastructure development projects and investment in Pakistan and discussed future cooperation in development projects especially eco-friendly and climate resilience.

Special Assistant to Prime Minister on Finance, Tariq Bajwa, SAPM on Revenue, Tariq Mehmood Pasha and



senior officers from finance division participated in the meeting, according to press statement issued by the finance ministry. On the occasion, Finance

Minister Mohammad Ishaq Dar shared with Erik Berglof the current economic outlook of the country.

He apprised him about the economic policies and reforms of the government for sustainable economic development and social uplift of the poor segment of society.

He said that despite economic challenges, the government was determined to set the things in right direction and put the economy on positive trajectory.

He also apprised about the economic losses due to the devastated floods in Pakistan and rehabilitation and reconstruction in the flood affected areas. The minister expressed gratitude to Erik Berglof, Chief Economist AIIB for his support to Pakistan.

## Imran Khan's indictment deferred in Toshakhana case

City Reporter

ISLAMABAD: A district and sessions court on Tuesday granted an exemption to Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan from today's hearing in the Toshakhana case.

Additional Sessions Judge Zafar Iqbal pronounced the verdict reserved earlier in the day after the PTI legal team filed a petition seeking exemption from personal appearance.

The indictment of the former prime minister in Toshakhana case was deferred as the court granted Khan an exemption to Imran Khan on medical grounds.

In November, a trial court took up the Toshakhana reference filed by Election Commission against Khan for allegedly indulging in corrupt practices, which the former premier denies.

The ECP disqualified Chairman Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) in

the Toshakhana reference.

In the written judgment, the ECP said: "As per the statement of Imran Khan he had purchased the gifts from Toshakhana paying 21.564 million rupees while the Cabinet Division said that the gifts had a value of 107.943 million."

"Imran Khan being declared disqualified and unseated from his National Assembly seat," the ECP had said, adding: "He has been disqualified under Article 63, 1(P), over submitting a false statement and declaration."

The judgement added that the former premier was found to be indulged in corrupt practices under sections 167 and 173 of the constitution. "A criminal proceeding will be initiated against him over filing a false statement."

"His disqualification under Article 63, 1(P) has been for his current parliament membership", the ECP said in its 36-page detailed judgment of the reference.

## Pakistan ready to assist Turkiye, Syria in such challenging times: Chairman NDMA

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) Chairman Lieutenant General Inam Haider Malik on Tuesday said that the country was ready to provide all needed assistance to Turkiye and Syria in such difficult and challenging times.

This was shared on NDMA's twitter handle. "The NDMA dispatched humanitarian assistance to the earthquake-hit Turkiye through PAF C-130 aircraft from Nur Khan Air

Base on special directions of PM", it said.

"Chairman NDMA Lt General Inam Haider Malik sent off an emergency relief consignment that included winterized tents and blankets along with the search & rescue team of the Pakistan Army", the NDMA tweeted.

It added that additional supplies had also been gathered and would be sent off after developing need-based damage assessments and evaluations by NDMA & AFAD.

## Planning Minister for adopting export-oriented policies

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Planning Development and Special Initiatives Ahsan Iqbal on Tuesday reiterated that the government is committed to facilitate the country's exports and urged them to adopt export-oriented policies for the public and the private sectors to accelerate export-led growth.

The Minister made these remarks while chairing a roundtable with country's exporters to review the progress of the exports and issues being faced by them, organized by the Planning Ministry, said a press release issued here.

The roundtable was attended by the representatives of Federal Board of Revenue FBR, State Bank of Pakistan, Ministry of Commerce and Industry and several exporters related to various industries. "Increasing exports is the only solution to get rid of the crisis and every sector should set a target to increase exports," said the Minister, while assuring them that the government will facilitate and remove all bottlenecks in this regard.

The Minister while acknowledging their contribution said that exports are the backbone of the country's economy and the government is taking concrete steps to facilitate them.

Planning Minister informed the audience that the government will organize a conference soon while inviting the country's 50 brands to highlight their work globally.

While referring to the two crises which had faced the government since it came into power in April 2022, the Minister said that flood-2022 has affected the country badly and the poor economic situation. The incumbent government took hard decisions to bring the country on the path of stability. Prof Iqbal further added that economic stability is linked with political stability and there is a dire need of time for political stability in the country.

Time has come to leave aside the political differences and to focus on the country's economy to make Pakistan a 'prosper' country, said the Minister, while assuring the exporters to consider their recommendations and suggestions.

## ECP considers deploying army troops to oversee Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa elections

City Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) was in touch with the Ministry of Interior and Defence for the deployment of Pak Army troops/ Frontier Corps (FC) to ensure peaceful elections in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, said Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Sikandar Sultan Raja.

Chairing a meeting held to discuss the security and political situation with provincial authorities before announcing the election date.

CEC told Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Secretary Imdadullah Bosal and Inspector General of Police (IGP) Moazzam Jah Ansari that more spade work should be done regarding the deployment of



Army and Frontier Corps and inform the Election Commission so that relevant quarters can be contacted in time.

The Chief Election Commissioner instructed to complete working regarding the deployment of Army and FC in elections and inform the commission so that the relevant institutions can be contacted.

Stressing ensuring transparency, CEC directed the provincial government, the Chief Secretary and the IG to ensure that the transfers of the officers posted to all the administrative posts in the province were done immediately, besides ensuring the appointment of impartial staff before the elections.

He said any complaints

against the political affiliation of returning officers and district returning officers, who were appointed to supervise National Assembly by-elections, should be sent to the election commission for immediate action.

Chief Secretary Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa assured to implement the instructions of the election commission. He said impartial officers will be appointed in all districts before the elections.

He said they are demanding the federal government to increase the election budget.

IG KP said the police force was facing a shortage of 57,000 personnel to conduct the elections. The additional police forces will be called from Azad Kashmir and Gilgit-Baltistan, but still the required person-

nel will not be met. The police chief said Frontier Corps and Pakistan Army personnel will be required to meet the shortage of police force.

Briefing on the security situation, IG KP informed the meeting that there were 494 attacks on police in 2022. So far in 2023, 93 personnel have been martyred in 46 attacks, he added. Furthermore, 119 policemen were martyred in 494 attacks in 2022.

IG KP said the possibility of terrorist activities during elections cannot be ruled out. It cannot be said that the upcoming elections will be completely peaceful, he warned.

At the outset of the meeting, they offered feteiha for the martyrs of the Peshawar Police Lines blast.

## Wikipedia services restored across Pakistan

Commerce Reporter

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) on Tuesday restored Wikipedia services across Pakistan.

As per details, the PTA has unblocked the service on the orders of Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif earlier directed the Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) to "immediately" restore online encyclopedia, Wikipedia, which was banned for not "blocking/removing sacrilegious content". The PM then constituted a committee comprising the law, economic affairs and information ministers for "preliminary examination of the matter".

## Two more Qatar's visa centers to be opened in Pakistan: Envoy

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Qatari Ambassador Sheikh Saud Bin Abdul Rahman Al Thani on Tuesday met with Federal Minister for Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development Sajid Hussain Turi here.

The Qatari envoy informed the Minister that Qatar's Ministry of Interior has approved two more visa centers for Pakistan that would be established soon.

Speaking on the occasion, the minister said that Pakistan has full capacity to meet the manpower demand of Qatar and wished to make the immigration process more transparent and faster for meeting up the targets.

"It is the need of hour to



transform the relationship between the two countries into a solid economic partnership," the minister added.

The Ambassador said, "We wanted to create more employment opportunities for Pakistani talent in Qatar."

Both the dignitaries also discussed bilateral relations, creating more employment opportunities for Pakistanis in Qatar and issues of mutual interest during the meeting. They also reiterated the commitment to work together

to further expand bilateral cooperation.

Federal Minister Sajid Hussain Turi also congratulated Qatar for hosting the most successful FIFA World Cup ever.

The minister said that sports activities like FIFA promote international peace and Qatari ambassador appreciated Pakistani security forces for providing foolproof security during FIFA World Cup event.

Pakistanis valued its bilateral relations with Qatar and considered it as their home, Turi added.

Ambassador Sheikh Saud bin Abdul Rahman Al Thani was keen to further expand relations with Pakistan as there was a deep affection and love for Pakistan and its people.

# PM AJK chairs high level meeting, stresses on effective monitoring policy

Abdul Majeed Tahir

MUZAFFARABAD: Prime Minister Sardar Tanvir Ilyas Khan has said that ministers should evolve a comprehensive monitoring policy with a view to improve efficiency of government departments and timely completion of public welfare projects. While addressing a review meeting regarding the progress of the departments here on Tuesday the PM said that the projects of public necessity should be completed within the stipulated time frame.

"There should be no compromise on quality and standard of work", he said, adding that institutional reforms was a dire need of the moment to improve the efficiency of the departments. He said that monthly review meeting should be held to check the work



progress of the ongoing development projects. The Prime Minister directed the secretaries of all departments to submit tax returns and statements of employees and assets in time.

The meeting was attended by Senior Most Minister Khawaja Farooq Ahmad, Government Ministers Chaudhry Muhammad Rashid,

Abdul Majid Khan, Diwan Ali Khan Chaghatai, Muhammad Akbar Ibrahim, Chaudhry Muhammad Arshad, Sardar Mir Akbar Khan, Chaudhry Muhammad Akhlaq, Nisar Ansar Abdali, Muhammad Akmal Sargala, Chaudhry Yasir Sultan, Chaudhry Azhar Sadiq, Chaudhry Muhammad Maqbool, Ali Shan Soni, Chief Secre-

tary Muhammad Usman Chachar, and others. On the occasion Additional Chief Secretary Development Fayaz Ali Abbasi gave a briefing regarding the performance of departments and development projects going on in the region. The ongoing projects under PSDP were also reviewed in the meeting.

## 18th anniversary of martyred journalists was celebrated



Adam Khan Wazir

WANA: The eighteenth anniversary of journalist Allah Noor and Ameer Nawab, who were martyred on February 7, 2005, was celebrated with great devotion and respect in District Press Club Wana.

Deputy Commissioner South Waziristan Lower Muhammad Nasir Khan, DSP Headquarter Nadir Khan, Youth Officer South Waziristan Lower Sardar Ali Wazir, Tahsildar Wana, Taj Muhammad Wazir from the business community, Imran Mukhlis from PPP and leaders of various political parties participated.

Amir Khan, the son of Allah Noor martyred, participated in the event as a special participant.

All the participants paid their respects to the martyrs and said that martyrs never die, because they are alive.

Addressing the ceremony, the Deputy Commissioner said, "I pay homage to the martyred journalists."

Journalism is a sacred profession, if it is conducted in a positive manner.

He said that journalism is the eyes and ears of society, tribal journalists have played a frontline role in the war against terrorism and have even offered their lives, which can never be forgotten. Journalists should highlight public problems so that they can be solved.

The Deputy Commissioner said, that our cooperation with journalists will continue all the time.

District Press Club Wana Secretary General Zardad Khan and Vice President Noor Ali Khan thanked all the guests on behalf of the District Press Club Cabinet and said, that you guys have encouraged us by participating in this event, be clear, that Ameer Nawab and Allah Noor were on their way back after the agreement between the district administration and Taliban commander Baitullah Mehsud on February 7, 2005 in Sararogha Tehsil of South Waziristan.

That the terrorists opened fire on their van near the headquarter hospital Wana, as a result of which Amir Nawab and Allah Noor were martyred on the spot, while Anwar Shakir was seriously injured.

District Press Club Wana President Mujeeb Ur Rehman has said that it has been eighteen years since Allah Noor and Amir Nawab left us, but we have not forgotten them, they are alive for us, and every year their anniversary will be celebrated with great splendor.

## Enhancing think-tank

Expanding its international partnerships, ISSI has concluded MoU on cooperation with Strategic Studies Centre of Egypt's Nasser Higher Military Academy. It lays down framework for enhanced think-tank collab. & adds another layer.



## FFC holds First Corporate Briefing for the Year 2023

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Fauji Fertilizer Company (FFC), held its First Corporate Briefing for the year 2023, as part of its best corporate governance practices.

FFC has been recognized by Pakistan Stock Exchange

(PSX) as first amongst Top 25 Companies consecutively for 12 years attributed to its Compliance of Code of Corporate Governance, Company Performance and Efficient Management.

In the same backdrop the subject briefing for the year

ended 31st December 2022 was held at FFC's corporate Head Office, Rawalpindi. Virtual access was also provided to all the desirous stakeholders. Prominent capital market analysts and dignitary from Pakistan Stock Exchange attended the event.

## FCCI warns against unilateral decisions on export

Mian Rashid Asghar.

FAISALABAD: Unilateral decisions pushing the export sector towards total closure and shut down of industry would be tantamount to choking Pakistan economically, said Dr. Sajjad Arshad Senior Vice President Faisalabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (FCCI). He was addressing the FCCI Standing Committee on Revival and Sustainability of Value-Added Textile Export Industry. The meeting was also attended by Vice President Haji Muhammad Aslam Bhalli, Chairman Standing Committee Mian Muhammad Latif and Kashif Zia while Mian Javed Iqbal also addressed the meeting through telephone.

They expressed serious concerns over the proposed increase in electricity and gas tariff and said that industrial, business and trading activities could not be continued in the prevailing economic situation. Haji Aslam

Bhali said that Pakistan was passing through its worst economic crisis. "Half of the industries have already been closed down and if the electricity and gas tariff was further jacked up, it would become next to impossible to continue the industrial wheel in progress. Mian Muhammad Latif said that increase in gas and electricity tariff would be unacceptable and if it was enforced, industries would come to a grinding halt. He forewarned that the closure of the industrial sector would open flood gates of unemployment which in return would further deteriorate the law-and-order situation in the country. He said that many units have already been closed while the remaining were at the verge of collapse due to the inconsistent economic policies and global meltdown.

He said that President FCCI Dr. Khurram Tariq was out of country, hence a comprehensive meeting of this standing committee would be held on February 21.

## A delegation of USAID called on Shazia Marri



Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: A delegation of USAID, headed by Michael Schiffer, Assistant Administrator of the Bureau for Asia, called on Federal Minister for Poverty Alleviation & Social Safety Ms. Shazia Marri at Embassy of Pakistan Washington D.C. today. The meeting discussed in detail various interventions being made under the umbrella of Benazir Income Support Program, to provide relief to the vulnerable sections of the society. The Federal Minister briefed the USAID delegation about the devastations caused by catastrophic floods of 2022, which inundated one third of the country, and affected 33 million people including 04 million children, and hundreds of thousands of pregnant women. She also updated on the latest status of recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction efforts and how BISP was helping in this effort.

The Minister said that BISP over the last 14 years has evolved into a successful model and it was serving the poorest of the poor without any discrimination. She highlighted that National Social Economic Registry has enabled the Government of Pakistan with a scientific database to the reach out to the most deserving and marginalized strata of society in Pakistan. The Minister informed the delegation that around 8.9 million families were being provided financial assistance under the BISP, which would be increased up to 9 million by June 2023, and up to 10 million by 2024, she continued. She said financial assistance was provided directly to the women as family heads, which clearly reflected the priorities of the BISP program towards women empowerment. Likewise, the conditional transfer in education and health sector were aimed

at socio-economic uplift of the poor families with education, better health and skill development.

She informed the delegation that 364 Benazir Nashwona facilitation Centers were operating across Pakistan to address the nutritional issues of the women and children. On provision of relief in the aftermath of floods, the delegation was informed that an amount of Rs. 70 billion was disbursed to 2.5 million affected families through BISP. The Federal Minister appreciated continued support of World Bank, ADB and GIZ towards social safety and poverty alleviation. She mentioned about Pakistan Crisis-Resilient Social Protection (CRISP) Program of the World Bank to help establish an adaptive social protection.

Minister informed that through National Poverty Graduation Program (NPGP), BISP beneficiaries were being provided assets and training in order to graduate them out of poverty. The Federal Minister acknowledged the contributions of USAID and said that Pakistan looked forward to scaling up its partnership with the Agency in expanding the outreach of the program. Mr. Michael Schiffer lauded the role of BISP in social protection sector especially in providing swift relief to the calamity affected population. He underscored that USAID and the US Administration looked forward to strengthening its friendship and partnership with Pakistan. Mr. Michael Schiffer stated that USAID would like to balance its portfolio vis-à-vis allocation of sectoral assistance in social protection, poverty alleviation, nutrition, and education. He informed that he would be visiting Pakistan in late spring. He expressed particular interest in visiting the flood affected areas to obtain first-hand knowledge and experience.



Vice-Chancellor AJK University Prof. Dr. Kaleem Abbasi is interacting with Pakistan's High Commissioner in London HE Moazzam Ahmad Khan during a reception hosted by him in honor of top Pakistani academicians arrived in UK to attend Pak-UK Education Gateway Program.

پنجاب ہاؤسنگ اینڈ ٹاؤن پلاننگ ایجنسی سب راولپنڈی

PHATA Affordable Private Housing Schemes 2020ء کے تحت مندرجہ ذیل

تکسین پاس کی ہیں جن میں 3 مرلہ اور 5 مرلہ کے کثیر شدہ مکان ٹائٹ میا کے گئے ہیں۔ مکانات ٹائٹ کی الاٹمنٹ بذریعہ تعمیراتی عوامی مانی طلب ہیں جس کی تکمیل مندرجہ ذیل ہے۔

تعمیراتی نام	نوعیت	سائٹ	تعداد	کوڈ	قیمت	ریکارڈ
Kingdom Valley Phase-I, Tehsil & District Rawalpindi	مکانات	3.5 مرلہ	33	838SFT	38 لاکھ روپے	یہ پلاٹ 1 سال میں مکمل ہوں گے اور مکمل ہونے کے بعد پانی و قبضہ عوامی مانی کی جائے گا
Cambelpur Greens Tehsil Hazro District Attock	مکان / پلاٹ	3.23 مرلہ	56	885SFT	52 لاکھ روپے	//
Prism Town Tehsil Gujar Khan District Rawalpindi	ٹائٹ	3.5 مرلہ	180	860-1000SFT	4700 روپے فی مربع فٹ	//

درخواستیں گرانے کی آخری تاریخ 25-02-2023ء۔

شرائط و ضوابط:

- 1- درخواست گزاروں کو پنجاب کا رہائشی ہونا اور اس کی بی بی ایس کے ذریعہ کالکٹ کیے گئے مکانات ٹائٹ کی الاٹمنٹ بذریعہ تعمیراتی عوامی مانی طلب ہیں۔
- 2- درخواست گزاروں کی آمدن 60 ہزار روپے سے زائد نہ ہو۔
- 3- درخواست گزاروں کی عمر 18 سال سے زائد اور 65 سال سے کم ہو۔
- 4- درخواست نامہ PHATA اور ایس ایم ایس اور PHATA کے ذریعہ تیار کیا جائے گا۔
- 5- درخواست کے سرکاری پیپر اور شناختی کارڈ کی کاپی اور میٹری (مقروضہ 1، 2، 3، 4) پر دستخط (دستاویز) 2500 روپے نقد اور 10,000 روپے (دس ہزار) کے درجہ کے CDR جمع کرنا ہوگی۔ سرکاری آفیس میں اپڈیٹیشن ہوگی۔
- 6- تعمیراتی میں کامیاب درخواست دہندہ کو فراہم ہونے کے بعد 60 دن کے اندر مجوزہ قیمت کا 10% زرعیانہ جمع کرانے کا پابند ہوگا۔
- 7- اس بات کو یقین دلانا ہوگا کہ تمام سرکاری مانی منسبتی سے ملے ہوں گی۔
- 8- یہ تعمیراتی پنجاب آئی ٹی بورڈ اور کے ذریعہ نظام کیپٹل انڈسٹریز اور ایس ایف کے تحت طے ہوگی۔
- 9- شرائط و ضوابط سے متعلق درخواستیں درج ذیل آفس میں کی جائیں گی۔ ایس ایم ایس اور CDR ایک ماہ میں داخل کر دی جائیں۔ دیگر شرائط و ضوابط کی معلومات دفتر ڈی ڈی ایف PHATA سب راجن (گھرانہ تعمیراتی عوامی مانی) کے دفتر میں حاصل کی جاسکتی ہے۔

نوٹ: Cambelpur Greens میں مکان کے ساتھ پلاٹ کا آئیٹن بھی موجود ہے۔

ایس ایم ایس

ڈی ڈی ایف ایس PHATA سب راجن (گھرانہ تعمیراتی عوامی مانی) کے دفتر میں حاصل کی جاسکتی ہے۔

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**Namaz Timings**

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Zohr	12:22 pm
Asr	4:06 pm
Maghrib	5:44 pm
Isha	7:09 pm

**EMERGENCY**

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

**Women Police Stations**

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Rawalpindi	9270601-20

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# India hell bent on changing IoK's demography: PM AJK

**Bureau Report**

MUZAFFARABAD: Prime Minister Azad Kashmir, Sardar Tanveer Ilyas Khan, has said that the Modi government was hell bent on changing the demography of occupied Kashmir.

While talking to a private news channel the PM while referring to the Indian government's nefarious designs in the region said that following the abrogation of article 370 and 35A the apartheid regime has accelerated its campaign aimed at converting Muslim majority of the state into a minority by granting



domicile to non Kashmiris especially the soldiers. He, however, maintained that despite all the tactics India has miserably failed to suppress the Kashmiris Legitimate struggle for right to self determina-

tion. About Pakistan's consistent support to Kashmir cause, the PM said that Pakistan had always supported the Kashmiris Just cause.

Terming Pakistan as the ultimate destination of Kashmiri people, he said Kashmiris have been struggling for freedom for the last seven decades. "The United Nations and the world should implement their resolutions", he said. In order to promote the Kashmir cause effectively at international level, the PM said, "We have to change the traditional procedures regarding the freedom movement of Kashmir.

## Possession of Residential Plots

Islamabad: Administrator Brig Muhammad Jawad DHAI-R opened the "POSSESSION OF RESIDENTIAL PLOTS" in Sector J Phase 5 for construction of houses. The development work for this project has been completed within the stipulated period of two years. Secretary DHAI-R along with senior officials were also present at the occasion. It was attended by a large number of respected members and the Real Estate community.



*Federal ombudsman institution is rendering all services for poor and backward classes*

**News Desk**

ISLAMABAD: The Federal Ombudsman appreciated the role of media in sensitizing the functioning of Ombudsman Institution among the general public. This was stated by Federal Ombudsman Ejaz Ahmad Qureshi while briefing the Islamabad Crime and Court Reporters Association (ICRA) in his office today. He said that the Ombudsman Institution is rendering its services for poor and backward class. He said that maladministration and bad governance are two sides of the same coin. Both breed in an environment of favoritism, discrimination and corruption. Addressing maladministration, therefore, is essential for ensuring sanctity of human rights and achieving the ultimate goals of good governance and the rule of law.

While highlighting the achievements of ombudsman office, he said that it was worth mentioning that year 2022 witnessed the highest ever increase in complaints registration i.e. 164,174 complaints with 49% increase as compared to 2021, and the disposal also reached to all time high of 157,770 marking an increase of 47.7% over the figures of 2021.

## Incompetent economic managers shatter the economy

**Tariq Khattak**

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Economy Watch (PEW) on Tuesday said the so-called economic manager has proved to be the biggest problem to the economy.

The policies of incompetent economic managers have pushed the country to the brink of collapse, it said.

Recently another unskilled and self-styled economic expert was imported amid great fanfare but his policies ruined the troubled economy, said Brig. (ret'd) Aslam Khan, Chairman PEW.

He said that the economy is a serious matter that should not be left to irresponsible politicians because they are more concerned about other issues than the country.

Muhammad Aslam Khan said that the rulers are still not serious about the economy. No one among those who matter is serious and they are just wasting time.

If the IMF's ninth review is successful, the continuous increase in the value dollar may stop, but if it fails, then it will be a doomsday scenario for Pakistan, he added.

He said that spending more than income and elitism have ruined many countries in the past and now this habit of the unreliable upper class is shaking the foundations of Pakistan.

Presently Pakistan has no option except IMF but still one of our economic managers tried to dictate to the international institution which failed miserably.

The so-called economic experts are still wasting time waiting for help from some other country which further pushes Pakistan into problems.

He said that the economy may improve for the twenty-third time under the supervision of the IMF, but there is a fear that people will face the pain of the IMF programme but its benefits will be distrib-



uted to the elites.

Elites are always promoted by giving attractive names to the plan like Kisan Package, Textile Package, or Construction Package, etc.

Every government continues to fool the people to promote the elite which has damaged the country beyond repair.

Aslam Khan said that despite being cheated by dozens of people, the IMF is ready to give the cheapest loan

to Pakistan, but due to repeated breaches of promises, its attitude has become tough.

Meanwhile, the circular debt is also reaching the limit of three thousand billion rupees, which is a threat to the country's economy, but the government wants to delay the problem instead of solving it, which is not acceptable to the international organization.

In Pakistan, 88 percent of consumers spend less than 300 units of electricity per month and the IMF wants them not to be subsidized.

The IMF also wants revised gas tariff, sale of failed state-owned companies, an increase in petroleum levy by Rs10 per liter, a lifting of an import ban, and some other measures which will push up inflation upto 36 percent and there is no possibility of any flexibility in its attitude.

Pakistan has no option but to fully comply with the IMF conditions to evade default, he said.

## Pakistan to fight for freedom of Kashmir: Sardar Saleem

**City Reporter**

ISLAMABAD: Special Assistant to the Prime Minister for Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development, Sardar Saleem Haider said that people of Pakistan have strong historical and blood ties with people of Kashmir and no power on earth can disrupt this relationship. He said that the government will raise and fight Kashmir issue at every international forum and expose blatant violation of international laws by the Indian government and the brutality and oppression of Indian occupied forces in Kashmir.

Addressing on the occasion of Kashmir Solidarity Day at OPF Girls College, F-8/2, Islamabad, SAPM said that the roots of freedom movement of people of Kashmir are grounded in the two-nation theory of Quaid-e-Azam. The dream of a separate homeland for the Muslims of the sub-continent would not be complete without the freedom of Indian Occupied Kashmir. We still believe in the peaceful solution of Kashmir Issue according to the will of people of Kashmir, as guaranteed by the UN resolutions.

He further said that the sufferings of the people of Kashmir have not ended due to inaction of the international community. He urged the international community to raise its voice in seeking an end to the gross violations of human rights and the reign of terror unleashed by Indian occupation forces in Indian Occupied Kashmir.

SAPM appreciated OPF for providing quality education to the children of overseas Pakistanis and general public throughout Pakistan. Earlier, the SAPM visited art exhibition and different art works displayed by the students.

## Textile Export industry is highly concerned over the recent downfall in exports

**Mian Rashid Asghar**

FAISALABAD: Textile Export industry is highly concerned over the recent downfall in exports. High production cost, currency devaluation, inconsistent policies, political instability and economic meltdown have contributed to the deteriorating exports.

Expressing deep concern over the current economic and political uncertainty in the country, PTEA leadership has said that the political instability and economic slowdown pulled country's exports down 15.4 percent to 2.2 billion in January 2023 against \$2.61 billion in the same month last year, making it the fourth consecutive decline. Pakistan's economy has been in crisis for months, predating the catastrophic floods. Inflation is backbreaking, the rupee's value has fallen sharply and its foreign reserves have now dropped to the precariously low level. The key crisis in the domestic economy is the fall of the country's foreign exchange reserves to the alarming level; whereas the rest of the crisis included a 49-year high inflation rate, a 23-year high key policy rate at 16%, a steep fall in exports, increased rate of taxes and historic devaluation of the domestic currency. Textile industry is operating at capacity utilization of less than 50 percent across the country and a substantial number of jobs have already been lost and many more are to follow.

PTEA leaders were of the view that historic surge in the dollar value and the economic crisis are the foremost factors hurting outbound trade and it has become very difficult to compete in the world market. Consequently, sizeable textile capacity had been severely impaired and textile exports, both in quantity and value terms had declined across the value chain. Textile export industry is already facing a serious blow of non-viability due to the high cost of doing business and also at a comparative disadvantage in respect of production cost in the region. Due to decreasing exports and failure to end the economic crisis, huge amount of labourers in textile and textile-related industries have lost their jobs. A much higher quantum of funds is stuck as a consequence of 17 percent sales tax and devaluation on all inputs. Countries that compete with Pakistan in global textile exports including Bangladesh, India, China and Vietnam are quoting reduced prices of up to 15% to foreign buyers as compared to those given by Pakistan. In contrast, exporters in Pakistan are battling hard to survive and compete on a very low profit margin.

Pakistan is passing through difficult times and an increase in export proceeds can lift the economy. PTEA stressed for taking stock of serious situation and sit down with the stake holder to identify the real challenges in export growth and resolve them on priority to accelerate the growth rate.

## International Centre of Excellence organized a meet up



**News Desk**

ISLAMABAD: International Centre of Excellence (ICE)- iQualifyuk organized a meet up for 25+ International Universities and Media Group representatives in Islamabad. 25+ Plus universities from UK, Canada, France, Australia, Ireland Scotland, Turkey, Malaysia, Cyprus, Hungary, Iran & UAE participated in the event and displayed their program portfolios. 300+ Students from different colleges attended the event where they are counselled with respect to choosing their careers and further education by university reps in one two one sessions. Media representatives appreciated ICE's educational framework and have shown keen interest in working together for the benefit of the institute. ICE focuses on imparting education with skillset. A combination of both a strong skillset and a degree is valuable because they complement each other and provide a well-rounded education and professional profiling.

A brief introduction of ICE & iQualifyuk was given by Ms. Sumbal (Head of Centre) stating that ICE is recognized by HEC and had been established by iQualify UK which is a British education provider. She emphasized that our aim is to provide the skill based education with the focus to produce opportunities of employability and entrepreneurship for the human capital of Pakistan.

Dr. Ali Raza Nemat (Group Director HR, Marketing and International Operations) gave closing remarks highlighting the objective of empowering people with the quality international education and skillset building an enlightened and productive community.

## AIOU to close admissions of merit-based programs on Feb 15

**City Reporter**

ISLAMABAD: Allama Iqbal Open University has commenced admissions in the first phase of spring 2023 semester including BS, MS/ MPhil and PhD and the deadline for the submission of admission application form is February 15, 2023. Whereas the last date of admission for Matric and Intermediate programs is February 21. AIOU has also announced the admission entry test schedule for MS/MPhil and PhD programs. These entry tests will be conducted in university's academic complex from February 17-22, 2023.

## A study group of WAPDA Medical Services visited Maroof Hospital

**Spokesman Report**

ISLAMABAD: WAPDA Medical Directorate was conducting an intensive Management Training Course of their doctors to be promoted from PBS 17 - PBS 18. As part of their field tours, the participating doctors visited Maroof International Hospital, along with Course Director Dr. Shazia Rana and Course Facilitator Dr. Nazir Ahmed Khan MS WAPDA Hospital, Rawalpindi.

Dr. Nabia Tariq Head of Gynae & OBS Dept, Dr. Gulafshana Khan Senior Consultant Gynecology Maroof Int'l Hospital & the Corporate team welcomed the study group. Onwards, the participants were given a detailed tour of the hospital, with special attention given to the In-patient Rooms, Molecular Operation Theatres, ICU, Pediatric ICU, NICU, CCU and Cath Labs, consisted an



integral component of the visit. The evidence based medical provisions at the hospital were highly appreciated by all attendees.

Dr. Mir Abdul Waheed, Medical

Director and Head of the Accident & Emergency Dept Maroof Int'l Hospital, gave a comprehensive briefing on the establishment and endeavors undertaken by the hospital to ensure

prompt availability of quality medical services under a single unit. With keen interest, the eager partakers asked a multitude of questions that were answered with deep insight by Dr. Mir and other senior doctors. Maroof Int'l is one of those few hospitals in Pakistan, where the Emergency Dept. is led by a foreign trained Emergency specialist. And Maroof Int'l Hospital is the only hospital in the vicinity with a well-trained trauma team. The Hospital offers a 24 hours Accident and Emergency with dedicated Cardiac Emergency offering round the clock Diagnostic and Intervention Services, including Primary Angioplasty.

The Course Director, Facilitator and all other participants, were immensely grateful to the management of Maroof International Hospital for providing this beneficial medical and administrative information at such short notice.

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# Proposal to overcome the Power crisis

**Javed Ullah Raja**

The country is suffering from a severe energy crisis. No matter how much we talk about the current electricity situation, there is little because, with the increase in population, no sufficient work has been done on electricity production projects. This is the reason that today the country is suffering from a severe crisis of electricity. Lack of electricity and load shedding is a big obstacle to the development of the country. There is no place for factories, projects, and factories that do not have an idea of their importance. The wheel of the economy has been jammed. The production of the factories is being badly affected. If we first find a solution to this problem, we can take the country out of the black clouds of darkness. For this, a strong strategy is to be needed. Let's say for example if this problem is reduced from debt, it will cost a lot of capital and still, the problem will be left. Get out of this problem.

Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif has expressed his desire to

benefit from solar power generation projects in the country. The production of solar energy in Pakistan is not equal to the country's electricity production. According to a report, the country only 430 megawatts of solar

energy are provided in the electricity system i.e. the national grid. Currently, the electricity production in the country is 22 thousand while the demand is 26 thousand megawatts.



energy are provided in the electricity system i.e. the national grid. Currently, the electricity production in the country is 22 thousand while the demand is 26 thousand megawatts.

I have a suggestion for the government: By this we can solve the problem of electricity for domestic consumers, as well

the welfare of the public. Including the yellow cap scheme, laptop scheme and giving subsidies on essential goods in utility stores etc.

The Government should launch a program for, installing solar systems for the public and recover its cost in electricity bills in easy installments.

With this program, the country can get out of the electricity crisis. For this, it is suggested to provide different power systems as demanded by the consumers. It is estimated that this program will not only meet the require-

ment of domestic users but also increase the production of electricity. Indeed this program will also be a great favor to the people from the government. As and when, the installments well going to end the peoples will enjoy free electricity. And after that, there will be benefits besides free electricity. Just like

many people today are not only meeting their needs with solar systems but excess electricity, they are selling. Solar system demand can also be estimated through a public survey report. People's opinions can also be asked. The services of related companies of local and foreign countries can be obtained. The government will play a big role in bringing the country out of a huge electricity problem. This program will not only solve our electricity shortage but there are also vast possibilities and will make a difference in the gas shortage, for example, home appliances like heaters, stoves, and other installations can be switched to free electricity. With launching this project the government will start back immediately in the shape of installments. At present, neighboring and other countries have indicated investment in the country. And foreign investors are willing to invest in the country. So by taking advantage of the opportunity, progress can be made in getting the country out of the severe electricity crisis. It is hoped that this program will be considered for implementation.



## NAB Amendments

The Supreme Court on Tuesday heard former prime minister Imran Khan's petition challenging amendments in the National Accountability (NAB) Ordinance by the government.

A three-member SC bench comprising Chief Justice of Pakistan Umar Ata Bandial, Justice Ijaz Ul Ahsan and Justice Syed Mansoor Ali Shah heard the case. During the course of proceedings, the Supreme Court once again asked for the details of the cases which had been disposed of due to the NAB amendments or transferred to the relevant forum.

Justice Mansoor asked the NAB to submit the details of how many cases were decided and returned under the NAB amendments.

He asked how much truth was there in the impression that many cases were closed or rendered ineffective by the NAB amendments. To which the special prosecutor of the bureau said that no case had been closed since the NAB amendments came to the fore.

"NAB has not closed prosecution in any case," he replied adding that only few NAB cases had been moved to the respective forums only after the amendments.

Justice Mansoor asked the prosecutor to submit the details of the cases which were decided on merit after the NAB amendments. The chief justice asked which cases had benefited from NAB amendments.

Justice Ijaz remarked that less than Rs 500 million corruption cases automatically became ineffective with the NAB amendments. NAB had transferred corruption cases of less than Rs 500 million rupees, he added.

Advocate Makhdoom Ali Khan counsel for the federal government said that the court should also know what NAB did with the money collected from the plea bargain.

He said that the Public Accounts Committee had asked Chairman NAB Aftab Sultan to submit details of the plea bargain amount but the latter did not give any reply to the Public Accounts Committee.

The court ordered NAB to include the details regarding the plea bargain amount in the report.

Advocate Makhdoom Ali Khan said that the court should also ask the petitioner how many NAB cases were closed during his tenure.

The chief justice said that it was not the function of the court to resolve disputes created by Parliament. He observed that the Parliament should itself resolve its disputes.

He said that anti-corruption law had existed since the creation of Pakistan.

"Imran Khan is probably worried about NAB amendments changing the requirements of the original law," the CJP observed.

Justice Mansoor asked could the court itself interpret fundamental rights. Makhdoom Ali Khan said that the court could only intervene when a branch of government overstepped its limits.

The chief justice said that if the court did not intervene in any violation, it would be extremely unfair to the people. "The redline would be set on the NAB law through this case," the CJP held.

Subsequently, the hearing of the case was adjourned till Wednesday.

## World powers rush to offer Turkey, Syria aid over quake

**Spokesman Research**

Countries around the world have mobilised rapidly to send aid and rescue workers after a massive earthquake killed more than 5,000 people in Turkey and Syria.

Offers of assistance came from countries across the world. Here are some of the chief pledges of support.

### European Union

The European Union has mobilised 27 search and rescue and medical teams from 19 countries to help Turkey, together over 1,150 rescuers and 70 rescue dogs, EU crisis management commissioner Janez Lenarčič confirmed Tuesday.

### United States

President Joe Biden said that US teams were "deploying quickly to begin to support Turkish search and rescue efforts".

National security spokesman John Kirby said the United States was sending two search-and-rescue teams of 79 people each, while the Pentagon and USAID were coordinating with their Turkish counterparts.

### China

China said the first Chinese rescue teams started work in Turkey on Tuesday and that it was sending \$5.9 million in emergency aid to the country, including rescue and medical teams, state media reported.

Deng Boqing, vice director of the China International Development Cooperation Agency, told state broadcaster CCTV that Beijing would also coordinate "urgently needed disaster relief materials" for Syria but did not say how much would be sent.

### Britain

Foreign minister James Cleverly said the UK was sending a team of 76 search and rescue specialists, equipment and rescue dogs. Britain was also sending an emergency medical team to

assess the situation on the ground.

### Russia

President Vladimir Putin promised to send Russian teams to both countries in telephone calls with Syria's Bashar al-Assad and Turkey's Recep Tayyip Erdogan.

The defence ministry said 300 military personnel deployed in Syria were helping with the clear-up effort.

### United Nations

"Our teams are on the ground assessing the needs and providing assistance. We count on the international community to help the thousands of families hit by this disaster, many of whom were already in dire need of humanitarian aid in areas where access is a challenge," UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said.

### India

Two of India's National Disaster Response Force teams comprising 100 personnel with dog squads and equipment were ready to be flown to the affected area, the foreign ministry said. Doctors and paramedics with medicines were also being readied.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi said he was "anguished" and "deeply pained" by the deaths in Turkey — with whom India has frosty relations — and Syria.

### Germany

Germany — home to about three million people of Turkish origin — will "mobilise all the assistance we can activate", Interior Minister Nancy Faeser said.

### Ukraine

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky said that his war-torn country was "ready to provide the necessary assistance to overcome the consequences of the disaster."

### Greece

Kyriakos Mitsotakis, prime minister of Turkey's historic rival Greece, whose relations with Ankara have suffered from a spate of border

and cultural disputes, pledged to make "every force available" to aid its neighbour.

### Israel

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said he had approved the sending of aid to Syria — whose government does not recognise Israel — after receiving a request through diplomatic channels. A Damascus official denied they had requested help.

The government will also send humanitarian assistance to Turkey, Netanyahu said.

### Qatar

Qatar said it would send 120 rescue workers to Turkey, alongside "a field hospital, relief aid, tents and winter supplies".

The United Arab Emirates pledged assistance worth around \$13.6 million to Syria, including search and rescue teams, urgent relief supplies and emergency aid. Official news agency WAM said the UAE had already dispatched a first plane to southern Turkey, where it is planning to establish a field hospital.

### Iran

Iran is ready to provide "immediate relief aid to these two friendly nations", President Ebrahim Raisi said, offering condolences on the "heart-breaking incident".

### Algeria

The country sent a 89-member risk-management team, including medics, to Turkey with 17 tonnes of equipment, and another team will go to Syria, civil defence said.

### Tunisia

President Kais Saied ordered "humanitarian aid" for both Turkey and Syria, including 14 tonnes of blankets and food, officials said. Tunisia also appealed for volunteer medics to be flown out on Tunisian military aircraft.

### Japan

The government in Japan — which frequently suffers earthquakes — is dispatching the Japan Disaster Relief/Rescue Team to Turkey.

## AI supercharges battle of web search titans

**AFP Report**

A new generation of AI chatbots has unleashed a titanic battle between Microsoft and Google for the eyeballs of billions of web users, and the dollars they bring. Microsoft has gone all-in with a multibillion-dollar investment in OpenAI, the firm behind the world's most buzzy bot ChatGPT, hoping to revolutionise its unloved Bing search engine.

Google has owned the search market for two decades and is not ceding any ground — it hit back this week with an in-house bot of its own, called Bard.

And the AI gold rush is not limited to Silicon Valley search giants, Chinese firm Baidu announcing its own bot this week.

But what exactly is the fight about? Big tech firms have spent years ripping unimaginable amounts of data from the internet and churning it into so-called large language models that they use to train algorithms.

This is how voice recognition tools like Amazon's Alexa, Apple's Siri or Google Assistant work.

What that means in practice is that future search engines will not produce lists of links — instead they will give the user coherent and full answers using multiple sources.

Neeva, a search engine that markets itself as privacy friendly, is already pushing this kind of experience.

Neeva founder Sridhar Ramaswamy, a former Google executive, told AFP that smaller companies were much better placed to innovate.

"We use large language models to look at all of the pages that are going to result for a query and show you a summary, and then show you a very rich visual experience," he said.

Like many analysts, Ramaswamy was highly critical of his former firm's obsession with ads, which he claimed was ruining the experience of users. Industry analyst Rob Enderle said Google's search business risked being torpedoed by innovations in AI.

"Google still largely lives off the fact their search engine is the most widely used," he said.

But these changes could "relegate them to history". However, there is still a long way to go before AI chatbots successfully wed themselves to search engines.

"Tools like chatGPT provide the illusion of an all-knowing being answering your questions, but that's not true," said Claude de Loupy of French AI text firm Syllabs.

Social media is overflowing with comical examples of ChatGPT's failings, not least its lack of ability in basic maths.

It has also been accused of bias after it refused to generate a poem praising Donald Trump but was more than happy to pen a paean to his successor as US president, Joe Biden.

There are questions about the sources the bots are trained on, the people who are employed in often terrible conditions to program them, copyright issues around pictures and the ultimate question of how firms will monetise their new toys.

However, OpenAI has largely managed to clear up one vital aspect that has plagued such bots — it is very difficult to get ChatGPT to say offensive things.

Microsoft got burnt in 2016 when its teenage AI chatbot Tay was immediately jumped on by Twitter users who got it to spout racist comments. Meta was similarly embarrassed last year when it launched an AI tool called Galactica.

It was intended to help academics to write papers but had to be withdrawn after it invented citations and could be asked to write racist tracts.

# Message on the Auspicious 44th Anniversary of the Islamic Revolution



**Seyed Mohammad Ali Hosseini**  
Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran to Pakistan

**Spokesman Report**

ISLAMABAD : In the name of Allah, As the ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran, its matter of pride for me to congratulate all the lovers and admirers of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Pakistan and other parts

of the world on the 44th anniversary of the victory of the Islamic Revolution of Iran.

From the very beginning of the movement, the Iranian nation pursued sacred goals in its movement, which manifested in three words: independence, freedom and Islamic Republic, and rooted in the basic principles of resistance and stability.

By the grace of the Almighty Allah and the efforts and resistance of the brave and patient people, today Iran is witnessing the unique growth and prosperity of the country in all the fields: including science, industrial technology, military etc. Iran has attained amazing achievements. Despite the unprecedented and inhumane sanctions, conspiracies, treachery, sabotages and hostile efforts to create hurdles in the path of the growth and progress of Iran and to prevent the Iranian nation from reaching its goals and objectives, Iran has become stronger and more determined, more resolute and dynamically continues to step on the path of progress, development and prosperity of the Islamic homeland.

The February eleventh is the anniversary of the victory of the Islamic Revolution of Iran, and now the brave nation of Iran is preparing to celebrate the 44th anniversary of the victory of the Islamic Revolution, which triumphantly overcame the hardships and difficulties through the history and now moves forward determinedly in the whirlwind of the events. The adversities and scourges of the era, tears and sufferings, the sorrow of the loss of our loved ones and the cruel pressures have made us more resistant and determined. The Iranian nation is determined to determine its own destiny and the destiny of the future generations, the realization of human dignity, the exaltation of its national, religious and cultural ideals and values.

While I am celebrating the 44th anniversary of the victory of the Islamic Revolution of Iran in the last year of my mission in Pakistan, I am witnessing more solidarity, solidification and strengthening of the relations between the two countries in all fields. The governments and people of the two countries are well aware of the importance and value of the friendly relations with each other, and we are witnessing its crystallization in the

deepening of friendships and comprehensive development of relations and ties.

Pakistan and Iran are two brotherly and friendly countries with a strong historical background of links and civilization, historical, ethnic, linguistic, cultural and religious commonalities. These commonalities, along with the unique capacities and opportunities in the two countries, should lead to stronger economic and commercial relations. Both countries should take a step forward to benefit from the available opportunities, including in the energy tourism sector and other sectors.

Today, the solidarity and friendship between the two countries of Iran and Pakistan promises the realization of the common goals of the two countries and the pursuit of common interests in the region and the world.

Lastly, I emphasize that the Islamic Republic of Iran has always conveyed the message of peace and friendship to everyone and calls for the development of relations, elimination of misunderstandings and all-round cooperation. Long live Iran -Pakistan friendship

## Unresolved Kashmir dispute to remain a stigma on UN face: Mushaal



**City Reporter**

ISLAMABAD: The Chairperson of Peace and Culture Organisation, Mushaal Husseini Mullick lashed out at the UN and world powers for their failure to resolve the decades-long Kashmir issue and said that the unresolved Kashmir dispute would remain a stigma on the face of the world body.

Speaking at a seminar organised by Shaheed Bhutto Foundation and JK-PSF to mark Kashmir solidarity day, as a chief guest here on Tuesday, she said that bleeding Kashmir would remain a constant threat to the regional as well as world peace.

Mushaal, wife of jailed Kashmiri Hurriyat leader Muhammad Yasin Malik, said that Hindutva regime unleashed a wave of terrorism and barbarism in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) but ironically the world largely remained oblivious to the world's worst human catastrophe.

The Hurriyat leader stated that settlement of Kashmir dispute was not only inevitable for Kashmiris to live free life from fascist Narendra Modi government's subjugation but it was also vital for the UN to restore its fast losing credibility and effectiveness.

Rehana Husseini Mullick Co Chairperson Peace and Culture Organisation said that the oppressed people largely considered the UN as a protector of interest of mighty oppressors rather than guardian of the oppressed and weak nations.

Mushaal said that it was high time for the world body to implementation of its own resolutions on Kashmir truly to restore its sanctity and respect. She made it clear that the brave Kashmiris would continue their struggle until breaking the shackles of Indian slavery despite all the ongoing war crimes and atrocities.

## APHC and LFK to send relief for Turkiye

**Spokesman Report**

ISLAMABAD: Today in an extraordinary meeting the All Parties Hurriyat Conference AJK and Pakistan Chapter and Legal forum for Kashmir decided to send small relief for Turkish brother and sister affected in Earthquake..

Earthquake in Turkiye and Syria and the resultant death and destruction is indeed worth mourning. Since yesterday we have witnessed heart wrenching scenes. We are indeed with our sisters and brothers in Turkiye and Syria in this hour of grief and mourning.

Hereby on the behalf of people of Indian occupied Kashmir we announce small contributions towards rescue and relief in Turkiye and Syria. Our first batch of help is on its way to Turkiye and Syria.

Our towering leaders and teachers Shaheed Syed Ali Shah Geelani and Shaheed Ashraf Sehrai have left us with the legacy of humanity and compassion. We, the volunteers of All Parties Hurriyat Conference Jammu and Kashmir on behalf of our Incarcerated leader Masrat Alam Bhat and Shabir Ahmad Shah ,our people and leadership and Legal Forum for Kashmir will be in letter and spirit with all the affected people.

We understand that this is the time when India has muzzled our voices. That India has killed and jailed our people. That Fascist Indian state is destroying our land and homes .

But we continue to be committed to humanitarian duties and nothing can deter us.

Please accept this help from your occupied and enslaved brothers from Indian occupied Kashmir.

We are indebted to you people as you have always kept us in our prayers and pledged support for us in resisting Indian occupation.

We therefore are duty bound to help you in this hour of grief and mourning. May Allah be pleased with you! May Allah make it easy for you and us!

## CEO Inspire condolences to the families of the Earthquake victims

**News Desk**

ISLAMABAD: At 04.17 local time on 5th Feb, a 7.8 magnitude earthquake struck the south eastern country of Turkiye impacting city of Gaziantep, Southern Osmaniyeh province, the tremors of which were felt in Ankara and nearby regions. Notably, Osmaniyeh is a city on the eastern edge of the Cukurova plain in the southern part of Turkiye and the capital of the province of Osmaniyeh and in area of northwest Syria. More than 4000 people were killed and thousands injured in both Turkiye and Syria. Syrian state media said more than 100 people were killed and dozens injured there, most in the provinces of Hama, Aleppo and Latakia, where numerous buildings had been brought down.

Inspire Pakistanis concerned for the most vulnerable people affected by this tragedy. Inspire Pakistan offers its heart – felt condolences to the families of those who have lost their lives and prays for the speedy recovery of the injured.

## Travel and tour cooperation

Karachi: H.E. Tapas Adhikari, Ambassador of Nepal meeting with the Travel Agent Association of Pakistan Central Chairman Mr. Nadeem Iqbal and other members of the Association in Karachi and had an interaction with them. During the meeting, He discussed the travel and tour cooperation between Nepal and Pakistan and to provide the best tourist products and services to tourists who wish to visit Nepal.



## PRCS donates US dollars 50,000 for Turkiye earthquake victims

**Spokesman Report**

ISLAMABAD : Pakistan Red Crescent Society has donated a generous sum of US dollars 50,000 to the Turkish Embassy in Pakistan, for the relief and recovery of Turkiye earthquake victims. The donation cheque was presented by Chairman PRCS Sardar Shahid Ahmed Laghari to the Ambassador of Turkiye, Dr. Mehmet Pachachi in a simple ceremony held in Turkish Embassy here on Tuesday.

Speaking on this occasion, Sardar Shahid Ahmed Laghari said that PRCS has stood with the people of Turkiye in this hour of grief and distress and would do all possible cooperation and support for the relief and recovery of the earthquake victims.

Chairman PRCS expressed heart-



felt condolences to the brotherly Turkish people on the tragic loss of life and

destruction of property caused by the earthquake in Turkiye. He said that

Turkiye and Pakistan are brothers and both has always stood side by side through thick and thin. He said Pakistan-Turkiye partnership is destined to remain a vital factor in the peace, stability and progress of our two peoples in an increasingly turbulent world.

Sardar Shahid Ahmed Laghari said that PRCS doors are always open for the Turkish brothers, he also offered to send a response team to Turkiye.

On this occasion, the Ambassador of Turkey, Dr. Mehmet Pachachi, thanked the PRCS for giving the relief donation and said that we appreciate this initiative and salute the passion and sincerity of the leadership of Red Crescent.

Sardar Shahid Ahmed Laghari also recorded his comments on the condolence book kept in the embassy.

## DCO holds first in-person General Assembly hosting delegations from 13 countries

**News Desk**

ISLAMABAD; RIYADH, SAUDI ARABIA: The Digital Cooperation Organization (DCO), the international organization to promote digital prosperity for all, has successfully concluded its second General Assembly today in Riyadh with a Ministerial Declaration calling for open collaboration among nations to bridge the digital divide.

The DCO Ministerial Call for Action, which was issued on behalf of all 13 Member States, recognized the crucial role that the digital economy plays in shaping a more equitable and thriving future, and called for increased international dialogue

to identify and promote successful approaches, and impactful initiatives that will empower nations to create sustainable, inclusive and equitable growth of the digital economy.

The General Assembly, the first full in-person gathering of the DCO, brought together delegations from the DCO member states, DCO observer partners, and other international stakeholders in the digital economy. The Assembly was also attended by H.E. Zunaid Ahmed Palak, Minister of State for Information and Communication Technology, People's Republic of Bangladesh; and H.E. Mohammad Almanni, Minister of Communications and Information Technology, State of

Qatar, as guests of the DCO.

The DCO calls for international cooperation to coordinate efforts and develop sustainable solutions that are specifically tailored to address four major concerns; such as policies and regulations, Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) Digitalization, Digital Skills and Education, and Digital Transformation.

H.E. Ms. Deemah Al Yahya, Secretary-General of the DCO, said: "There is an urgent need to modernize and harmonize digital policies and regulations, support MSMEs, take advantage of the cross-border nature of the digital economy and reduce barriers to access new markets, grow and

create new opportunities".

"Presently, around 36% of the world's population, or approximately 2.7 billion people, do not have access to the internet. This substantial divide separates those with the means and abilities to participate in the digital economy from those without. We must take collective action to unleash the full potential of the digital age by equipping everyone with the digital skills they need. This can be through a combination of formal education systems, informal training programs, and civil society initiatives that promote continuous learning and upskilling. We must invest in building and enhancing digital skills and reap the rewards for generations



to come," Al Yahya added.

The one-day General Assembly included several strategic announcements around the expansion of the DCO and align-

ing the organization to accelerate its mission in the future.

Two new Member States, the Republic of The Gambia and the Republic of Ghana, were

welcomed to the DCO during the Assembly, as the DCO continues its expansion into Africa to empower nations to develop their digital economies.

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

Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index	
Current	Prev. Close
41,522.76	41,190.77
Day's High	Day's Low:
41,763.95	41,190.77
Index Value	Change
11,198,817,378	+331.99
Percentage	Time
+0.81%	7 Feb, 2023 5:00 pm

Europe: FTSE 100 Index	
Index Value	Change
7,863.29	+26.58
Percentage	Time
+0.34%	7 Feb, 4:29 pm GMT

USA: Dow Jones Industrial Average	
Index Value	Change
33,804.85	-86.17
Percentage	Time
-0.25%	7 Feb, 11:33 am GMT-5

Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average	
Index Value	Change
27,685.47	-8.18
Percentage	Time
-0.030%	7 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	296.12	296.72
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	73.48	73.78
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	75.06	75.36
UK Pound Sterling	331.78	332.48
US Dollar	276.03	276.53

# ICCI lauds Ambassador for mobilizing Pak business delegation to Ethiopia

**Tariq Khattak**

ISLAMABAD: Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) leading a delegation visited the Embassy of Ethiopia and held a meeting with H.E. Jemal Beker Abdula, Ambassador to discuss the matters regarding inclusion of ICCI representatives in the Pakistan business scheduled to fly to Ethiopia from March 5-10, 2023 to explore business and investment opportunities in the Ethiopian market.

Ahsan Bakhtawari lauded the efforts of the Ethiopian Ambassador for mobilizing a high-profile Pakistani delegation to Ethiopia in a short span of time, which showed his commitment and dedication to promote trade and economic relations between Pakistan and Ethiopia. He said that Africa is an untapped market for Pakistan and hoped that the visit of the business delegation to Ethiopia would open up new avenues of promoting trade and exports with the African region. He



said that ICCI members of pharmaceuticals, construction, IT and other sectors would join the Pakistan delegation to tap the Ethiopian market for business and investment opportunities. He also appreciated the efforts of the Ethiopian Ambassador for the start of direct flights by Ethiopian Airline between Addis Ababa and Karachi from March 22, 2023 that

would help in promoting people-to-people and B2B relations between the two countries.

Speaking at the occasion, H.E. Jemal Beker Abdula, Ambassador of Ethiopia said that some big companies of Pakistan are joining the Pakistan delegation to explore the virgin market of Ethiopia, which is a gateway to Africa. He said that Ethiopia offers a lot of

business and investment to Pakistani businessmen and their visit would enable them to capitalize on them. He said that Ethiopia imports 82% of pharmaceutical products, which account for US\$ 1370 million and Pakistani pharma companies should take advantage of this potential. He assured that he would fully cooperate with them in their registration and documentation process in Ethiopia. He said that Ethiopia also has huge demand for textile products, surgical instruments, sports goods, rice, chemicals, steel and cement and Pakistan can increase their export to Ethiopia. He said that Pakistan can also import some products from Ethiopia including tea, coffee, pulses and oilseeds. He said that Pakistan's defense technology has great potential in Ethiopia. He briefed the President ICCI about the Pakistani delegation, which would have B2B and B2G meetings and visits to industrial areas.

Zafar Bakhtawari, Zahid Maqbool, Nasir Qureshi, Humayun Kabir, Shaukat Hayat Khan and others were in the ICCI delegation.

## 4 ways YouTube is empowering viewers of all ages to experience a safer internet

**Spokesman Report**

ISLAMABAD: There's no arguing that time spent online is an ever-increasing part of our lives, from how we communicate with friends and family to where we learn and find entertainment. And because a lot of that happens right here on YouTube, it's our commitment to invest in the products, built-in protections and easy-to-use tools to make being online safer for people of all ages.

In honor of Safer Internet Day, here are the latest tips that empower you to manage your YouTube experience — from mindfulness customizations and data privacy protections to controls and resources for families.

Be more mindful of the way



you spend time online with digital wellbeing tools

We're all trying to be more thoughtful of how we spend our time online, and over the last few years, we've introduced a suite of tools to help you manage your time on YouTube, like bedtime reminders, time

watched and controls to tailor autoplay settings. Safer Internet Day is a great reminder to check your settings and make sure they're still working for you.

Today's kids will be lifelong users of technology, and ongoing education is important for their safety and long-term success. That's why today, we

launched our YouTube Kids playlist, 'Build a Safer Internet,' which you may see upon opening the YouTube Kids app. The playlist will feature content that raises awareness about the safe, responsible and positive use of technology for families. With kid-friendly tips and songs on internet safety and resources to talk about mindful screen time, these videos are meant to help parents and their families navigate the digital world.

If you have any questions or feedback, let us know! We're available 24/7 on @TeamYouTube, or you can always check out our YouTube Help Center to learn about the latest announcements. For more information on our responsibility efforts at YouTube, visit our How YouTube Works site.

## Askari Bank signs agreement with Akhuwat Islamic Microfinance



**Commerce Reporter**

ISLAMABAD: Askari Bank has signed an agreement with Akhuwat Islamic Microfinance to provide interest free business and agriculture loans under Prime Minister's Youth Business & Agriculture Loan Scheme, to eligible customers.

The Agreement was signed by Atif R. Bokhari, President & CEO, Askari Bank and Dr. Kamran

Shams, CEO, Akhuwat Islamic Microfinance.

Dr. Amjad Saqib, Chairman-Akhuwat Foundation (through video link), Mr. Khurshid Zafar, Chief Operating Officer, Askari Bank, Mr. Rana Fasih Ul Hassan, Chief Risk Officer, Askari Bank and senior executives from Askari Bank's Institutional Sales, Islamic Banking and SME Products Divisions, were also present at the occasion.

## US Agri trade delegation visits Naheed Supermarket

**Bureau Report**

KARACHI: A high level delegation together with Mr. Tim Welsh, Southeast Asia Representative of the US Dry Bean Council (USDBC), and Mr. Rashid Raja, Marketing Specialist, USDA Foreign Agricultural Service and other business dignitaries, visited the premises and office of Naheed Supermarket, Karachi. The delegation was welcomed by Mr. Abraruddin, Founder Naheed Supermarket, Mr. Munsab Abrar, Director Naheed Supermarket and President Retail Industry AMPAK, and other senior team members of Naheed Supermarket.

The discussion session was attended by Mr. Abraruddin, Founder Naheed Supermarket, Mr. Munsab Abrar, Director Naheed Supermarket and President Retail Industry AMPAK,

Mr. Rashid Raja, Marketing Specialist US Department of Agriculture's Foreign Agricultural Service, Mr. Nasser Wajahat, Co-Founder & Secretary General, AMPAK-BDF, Mrs. Samrah Munsab, CEO Samrah Enterprises and President Women Empowerment AMPAK, Mr. Salman Syed, Vice President Samrah Enterprises, Mr. Hassan Raza, Head Creative Marketing, Content & Development Naheed, and Mrs. Naheed Ansari, one of the top most Senior Pakistani Chef.

Mrs. Samrah Munsab gave an enlightening presentation on Women Empowerment Initiative of Samrah Enterprises and AMPAK pertaining emerging female entrepreneurs especial-



ly home-based chefs. Furthermore, Mrs. Naheed Ansari shared her thoughts about the need and demand of lentils and beans in the culinary industry.

It was reviewed that Pakistan has great potential and both countries can continue to grow their trade and investment relations. The gathering concluded with the potential establish-

ment of a partnership between the US Dry Bean Council and Naheed Supermarket, marking the start of a promising relationship aimed at fostering the retail of beans and lentils in Pakistan.

USDBC is an association of the bean industry that trade high-quality edible beans in the US and abroad.

## AGTL takes another leap towards modernization

**Bureau Report**

KARACHI :Topping a record breaking year of market growth and success in management operations, Al Ghazi Tractors Limited, one of Pakistan's largest agricultural equipment manufacturers, has begun a digital transformation and overhaul of its IT infrastructure with an investment of PKR 2 billion. With the integration of the state-of-the-art SAP S/4HANA, an innovative ERP solution, at its core, the company is revamping strategic decision making as well as the overall operational strength of its existing ecosystem.

Digitalization has become fundamental to business sustainability and growth in the modern age. Through the latest in data analysis and

performance management systems, Al Ghazi Tractors Limited aims to build on its promise to deliver unprecedented levels of customer satisfaction as well as shareholder confidence. The SAP S/4HANA allows modern enterprises to adopt a more responsive, flexible and resilient approach toward dynamic consumer demands and ever-changing market requirements. Through a host of advanced technologies including AI, analytics, IoT and machine learning, this newest software suite will enable Al Ghazi Tractors Limited to streamline its Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) making it faster, swifter and simpler.

Expressing his views on the development, Javed Iqbal Acting CEO, Al Ghazi Trac-

tors Limited, stated: "Al Ghazi Tractors Limited has always embodied an industry leading approach in terms of operations and business management. Through integration of SAP's core automotive modules, our core operational teams across the region will gain access to real-time, data based reporting that will allow seamless decision making with minimal delays. Once the system is fully operational, the organization's end-to-end relationships with vendors, dealers and other shareholders will transform significantly."

The digital transformation at Al Ghazi Tractors Limited will occur over the next 4 years. However, the project's first phase has begun with the initial preparatory stages that will take 10 months to



culminate. The transformation project will be led by a

dedicated Steering Committee which includes the Al-Fu-

ttaim Group EIT, Transformation and Strategy teams.

## ED Uyghurs Human Rights warns Pakistan about China's influence



**Commerce Desk**

ISLAMABAD: Omer Kanat, Executive Director (ED) Uyghurs Human Rights has said that the Pakistan Government should not allow any working group under the influence of another Government to operate on its soil.

Talking to a media person, ED Uyghurs Human Rights said the Chinese Consulates in Pakistan have created several organizations and association such as; "All Pakistan-Chinese Overseas Youth Federation", Ex-Chinese Association Rawalpindi, Ex-Chinese association G.B" in different cities of the country, are operated under the influence of the Chinese Embassy. He added that these associations have some members from Uyghurs.

He raised the concern that "these associations have been created to control the Uyghurs by incentives like distributing money," he further added. "if you any one didn't agree with them for any work then they would threaten and harass you. Omer Kanat, said it is the prime responsibility of the Pakistan Government to protect its citizens".

Omer added that the United Nations High Commissioner published a report about the situation of Uyghurs and she said that crimes were being committed against humanity happening in Xinjiang. He also pointed out that Pakistan as an independent Muslim state should also protect the rights of others.

# Pak players deem to showcase top notch in PSL

## Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: With just six days before the eighth edition of the HBL Pakistan Super League (PSL) kicks off on February 13, the Pakistani players hope to showcase top notch in the extravaganza.

While speaking to the PCB Podcast, Imad Wasim, Mohammad Rizwan and Shadab Khan expressed their views on the mega tournament.

Imad Wasim, who has played 58 T20s for Pakistan, would captain 2020 champions Karachi Kings, Mohammad Rizwan hopes to inspire Multan Sultans to their third successive final, while Shadab Khan will attempt to make Islamabad United the most successful PSL franchise by winning the title for the third time.

Rizwan would feature in the opening match of the PSL 8 when his side will take on defending champions Lahore Qalandars in Multan on February 13. Imad would be in action on February 14 when he will go head to head with Babar Azam-captained Karachi Kings in Karachi, while Shadab will walk out for the



toss for the first time in 2023 in Karachi on February 16.

Imad Wasim said, "HBL PSL is one of the best leagues in the world, which is very close to our hearts. We wait for this league for 10 months during which we prepare, plan and set goals. Last year, Karachi Kings were hampered with injuries, but for 2023, we have all bases covered with high-quality players who all

are match-winners.

The most important thing for us is to play T20 the way it should be played, which is with a positive attitude and aggressive intent.

"We will go step-by-step and match-by-match in this tournament with our first target being to secure a place in the play-offs. One of the best things about this HBL PSL is we will have home matches.

So, we are aiming to make the best use of our first five matches at home and build the momentum that can carry us into the play-offs.

Mohammad Rizwan said, "Captaincy and batting can be challenging, but we have a good group of people who have not only empowered me but also back and supported. The philosophy of Multan Sultans is simple: play as champions irrespective of the opposition or the outcome. Consequently, we are not afraid of the results.

"It is always challenging to face Shaheen Afridi, Naseem Shah, Haris Rauf and Hasan Ali. And this doesn't only apply to me but to all the batters as they are seriously quick and effective bowlers with plenty of variety."

Shadab Khan said, "What I am today is solely due to HBL PSL. I entered in this competition as an Emerging Category player, but this tournament gave me the opportunity, belief and confidence to grow and develop as a cricketer and I am pleased that I am now a Platinum Category player.

## U19 Kashmir Day Girls Squash: Top-seeded Zohra enters semi-finals

### Sports Reporter

PESHAWAR: Feb 07 (APP): Top-seeded Zohra Abdullah took berth into the semi-finals on Tuesday after recording a victory against her tough rival Afsah from Abbottabad in the ongoing 'Kashmir Day Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Girls Junior Age Group Squash Championship' being played here at Qamar Zaman Squash Complex.

Zohra, who also played international squash, took no time in toppling her strong rival Afsah from Abbottabad in the marathon five sets battle, the score was 11-7, 9-11, 8-11, 14-12 and 12-10. Both girls, Zohra and Afsah played a good game and gave each other a tough fight in the marathon five-set battle that lasted for 49 minutes.

Zohra has full command over her strong smashes from the back of the court and succeeded in putting Afsah on the back foot besides exhibiting some perfect nicks



and drops which created a panic-like situation for Afsah in the 3-2 battle.

In the second quarter-final, Iqra Shah (Abbottabad) defeated Rida Hussain by (3-0), the score was (11-6 11-7 11-4). She made it to straight sets against Rida Hussain of Peshawar in the match that lasted for 23 minutes.

Meanwhile, in the third quarter-final, Naheed Faiz defeated her strong rival Romaisa in a 3-1 battle. Romaisa, playing good squash with some attacking smashes won the first set by 13-15 but she failed to click

in the remaining three sets won by Naheed Faiz at 11-9, 12-10 and 11-9. Both Naheed and Romaisa played well and gave each other a tough fight.

In the fourth quarter-final, Manahil Aqeel defeated Noor Muhammad Sohail by 3-0, in straight sets, the score was (11-2 11-5 11-3).

Whereas, in the U13 quarter-finals, Ayesha Qasim, Nimra Rehman, Omama, Maliha Shah took berth into the semi-finals after recording victories against their respective rivals in the quarter-finals. In the first quarter-final, Ayesha Qasim

defeated Amna Khan by 3-0, the score was (11-4 11-5 11-4).

In the second quarter-final, Nimra Rehman secured victory against Shandana Zafar in straight sets. The score was (11-6 11-3 11-5), and Maliha Shah, the second-seeded defeated Wareesha Jamshed by 3-1, the score was 10-12, 11-9, 11-8 and 11-7.

In the U17 quarter-finals, Mashal Khan, Wajeeda Altaf, Hifsa Yousa and Rania Qazi made their way to the semi-finals before registering victories against their respective rivals. In the first match, Rania Qazi of Abbottabad defeated Sahar Noor by 3-0, the score was 12-10, 11-9 and 11-9, in the second quarter-final.

Mashal Khan beat Alisha by 3-0, the score was (11-7 11-3 11-5) while international Waheeda Altaf defeated Manahil Khan by 3-0, the score was (11-4 11-6 11-8), whereas in the last quarter-final, Hifsa Yousaf beat Raheela by 3-0, the score was (11-4 11-7 11-2).

## PCB announces commentators and presenters for PSL 8



LAHORE: Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) announced on Tuesday the names of the 15 commentators and two presenters for the 34-match Pakistan Super League (PSL) season eight starting February 13.

According to a press release issued by the cricket board, a "strong field" of 15 commentators and two presenters has been confirmed to cover the series.

The official PSL handle on Twitter, announced the panel, stating: "Our star-studded commentary panel for #HBLPSL8 is here!"

The list of English commentators includes Alan Wilkins, Bazid Khan, Danny Morrison, Daren Ganga, Dominic Cork, Mark Butcher, Nick Knight, Sana Mir, Sikandar Bakht, Simon Doull, Urooj Mumtaz, Vernon Philander and Waqar Younis. Whereas, Marina Iqbal and Tariq Saeed will be Urdu commentators.

Moreover, the PCB press release stated that fan-favorites Erin Holland and Zainab Abbas have been taken on board as presenters during the series.

The PSL 8 matches will be played across four venues from February 13 to March 19. The Multan and Karachi-leg matches will be held from February 13-26, and then the action will shift to Lahore and Rawalpindi, where 20 matches will be played from February 26 to March 19.

The opening ceremony of PSL 8 will be held in Multan on February 13, prior to the tournament opener between 2021 winners Multan Sultans and defending champions Lahore Qalandars.

The closing ceremony and final, on the other hand, will be played on March 19 in Lahore, where the play-offs will also be held.

This year's PSL will be doubly exciting as Lahore Qalandars will attempt to become the first side to win back-to-back titles; meanwhile Islamabad United will aim to become the most successful side by lifting the trophy thrice.

It must be noted that Rawalpindi will stage 11 fixtures, Karachi and Lahore will host nine matches each, whereas Multan will have five home games throughout the series.

## FIH reveals continental quotas for Olympic qualifiers

### News Desk

ISLAMABAD: The International Hockey Federation (FIH) on Tuesday revealed the qualification pathway for the Paris 2024 Olympic hockey tournaments.

As approved by the International Olympic Committee (IOC) and FIH Executive Board last year, the qualification pathway for the Paris 2024 Olympic hockey tournaments per gender would be as follows:

Host Nation: 1 team (on the basis that both teams – Men and Women – have satisfied the FIH criteria of achieving a ranking of 25 or better in the FIH World Rankings since the end of the Olympic Games Tokyo 2020, which is the case for both French teams), said a press release.

Continental Qualifications: 5 teams  
The winning team of each of the following continental competitions will qualify: African Hockey Road



to Paris 2023, Pan American Games 2023

Asian Games 2023, EuroHockey Championship 2023, Oceania Cup 2023

FIH Hockey Olympic Qualification Tournaments: 6 teams

There will be 2 FIH Hockey Olympic Qualification tournaments per gender, consisting of 8 teams each (16 teams in total), held in early 2024.

As announced last year, the number of teams from each Continent participating in these tournaments is based on quotas determined according to

the FIH World Rankings of 31 January 2023.

On this basis, the continental quotas are: Women's Olympic Qualifiers: Africa: 0, Asia: 4, Europe: 8, Oceania: 1, Pan America: 3.

Men's Olympic Qualifiers: Africa: 1, Asia: 5, Europe: 7, Oceania: 1, Pan America: 2.

The teams filling each quota, and invited to participate, would be based on their performance at the Continental Championships.

The top 3 teams in each of these Olympic Qualification Tournaments would qualify for Paris 2024.

The bidding process for hosting the Olympic Qualification Tournaments 2024 would be released in a couple of weeks.

As has been the case since Beijing 2008, 12 teams per gender would play at the Paris 2024 Olympic hockey tournaments, with each squad consisting of 16 athletes.

## PCB announces Match officials for HBL PSL 8

### Tahir Amin Malik

LAHORE: The Pakistan Cricket Board on Tuesday announced the match officials for the HBL Pakistan Super League 8, which will be played across four venues from 13 February to 19 March.

The Multan and Karachi-leg matches will be held from 13-26 February, before action shifts to Lahore and Rawalpindi where 20 matches will be played from 26 February to 19 March.

Three members of the ICC's elite panel of umpires – Aleem Dar, Richard Illingworth and Michael Gough – will be accompanied by Ahsan Raza, Asif Yaqoob, Rashid Riaz, Faisal Khan Afridi, Martin Saggars,

Ruchira Palliyaguruge, Alex Wharf and Shozab Raza. They will be supported by Muhammad Asif, Nasir Hussain and Tariq Rasheed, who will be involved in fourth umpire's role.

Roshan Mahanama, former member of the ICC's elite panel of match referees, will return for the eighth successive year and will lead a team of five match referees with other members being Ali Naqvi, Iftikhar Ahmed, Javed Malik and Muhammad Anees.

Wharf, who played 13 ODIs for England, and Saggars, who featured in three Tests for England, will make their HBL PSL debuts along with Sri Lanka's Palliyaguruge. The

three are members of the ICC's international panel of umpires.

For Gough, it will be his fourth appearance in HBL PSL, while it will be Illingworth's sixth HBL PSL.

The opening match between defending champions Lahore Qalandars and Multan Sultans in Multan will be umpired by Asif Yaqoob and Martin Saggars, while Faisal Afridi will be the third umpire and Shozab Raza as fourth umpire. Muhammad Anees will be the match referee.

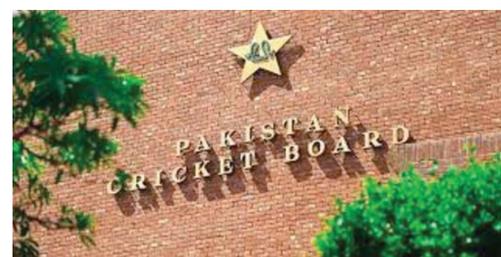
Ali Naqvi will lead the Playing Control Team for the Karachi Kings versus Peshawar Zalmi match in Karachi on 14 February. Ahsan Raza and England's Alex Wharf will be the on-field

umpires, Ruchira Palliyaguruge third umpire and Tariq Rasheed fourth umpire.

Meanwhile, the PCB has also confirmed a panel of 15 commentators and two presenters for the 34-match tournament.

Alan Wilkins, Bazid Khan, Danny Morrison, Daren Ganga, Dominic Cork, Mark Butcher, Nick Knight, Sana Mir, Sikandar Bakht, Simon Doull, Urooj Mumtaz, Vernon Philander and Waqar Younis will commentate in English, while Marina Iqbal and Tariq Saeed will be Urdu commentators. Erin Holland and Zainab Abbas will be the presenters.

For the HBL PSL 8, two full production kits and crews will be



operational simultaneously. This will only be the second time since HBL PSL 5 and the first time in the post-Covid era.

The High-Definition broadcast coverage will include 30 cameras, which along with Spidercams and buggy cams,

## Administrator Karachi Dr Saif visits KHA



### Staff Reporter

KARACHI: Administrator Karachi Dr Saif ur Rehman lauded the organiser of Sindh Youth Sports Asghar Azceem for organising great sports festival including football, baseball, badminton, table tennis, basketball, arm wrestling and hockey.

According to details, Administrator Karachi visited Karachi Hockey Association (KHA) as a Chief Guest during hockey match between SYS Blues and Orange, where secretary PHF Syed Haider Hussain welcomed him along with Olympian Hanif Khan and KHA Chairman Gulfranz Ahmed Khan.

Dr Saif ur Rehman shared his memory and said that I was visit KHA last in the wedding reception but now KHA become sports hub for hockey and martial arts which is a good sign.

He lauded the role of Haider Hussain as a pioneer of KHA and assured him that Administrator Karachi always stand with KHA in all circumstances.

Later, Secretary PHF Haider Hussain giving Lahore Qalandars T-shirt to Administrator Karachi.

## Five Pakistani athletes to feature in Asian-Indoor Athletics Championship



### Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: As many as five Pakistani athletes would feature in the 10th Asian-Indoor Athletics Championship, to take place in Astana, Kazakhstan from February 10.

According to details, a total of five athletes would participate in the Asian-Indoor Athletics Championship which will conclude on February 12.

The athletes include Shajar Abbas (60m), Sharoz Khan (High Jump), Mohammad Imran (High Jump), Uzair Rehman (400m) and Jaffar Ashraf (Pole Vault) while Qazi Tanveer Hussain would accompany the national contingent as manager-cum-coach.

Meanwhile, a national competition "The 1st Aitchison Half Marathon" was also around the corner to be held at Aitchison College Lahore on February 18.

The male athletes from affiliated units including Railways, Pakistan Army, Wapda, Higher Education Commission (HEC), Punjab, Sindh, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP), Islamabad, Azad Jammu & Kashmir (AJK), Police, Gilgit-Baltistan and student-athletes of Aitchison College would feature in the Half Marathon race.

Cash prizes would also be awarded to athletes. The winner would be awarded Rs. 100,000 while the runner-up will receive Rs. 50,000 and third position takers Rs. 25,000. Whereas, other athletes would be given Rs 10,000 each.

## Central Cricket League Final 2023 won by Abid & Sons



LAHORE: Abid & Sons won the Central Cricket League title after defeating Central Park by 85 runs in the final. Abid & Sons posted 248-7 in 30 overs with Haider Shah Jahan scoring 70, Farman Ali 54, M Saleem 40, Test cricketers Abid Ali 25 and Azhar Ali 15. Mamoon Riaz claimed 3-45 and Kamran Afzal 2-28. Central Park, in reply, were bundled out for 163-10 in 27.2.

Naeem Khan struck 35 and M Yasim 42. Umaid Asif, Bilwal and Mohsin Irshad batted 2 wickets each. The chief guests on the occasion were Aleem Dar, Urban Developers CEO Mian M Nasir, Nadeem Butt, Azhar Ali, Abid Ali and Col (R) Shahid Alam and distributed prizes amongst the winners, runners-up and top performers. The winners received Rs 100,000 and runners-up Rs 50,000.

in high-definition on A Sports, PTV Sports and TEN Sports on linear TV; while livestreaming will be available on Daraz App, tapmadTV and Tamasha.

Viewers around the world can watch the action live on Fox Sports (Australia), Sony (South Asia outside Pakistan), Willow TV (North America), Flow Sports (Caribbean), Sky Sports (United Kingdom), Sky Sport (New Zealand), Super Sport (sub-Saharan Africa) and, Etisalat and STARZPLAY (Mena).

In non-broadcast territories, the HBL PSL 8 will be available at the HBL PSL's official YouTube and Facebook channels.