Minister for Information and Broadcasting Marriyum Aurangzeb on Wednesday questioned the motive of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf's to

its members of the National Assembly (MNAs).

approach the Lahore High Court against the acceptance of resignations of

ورت اپنے شوہر کی کمائی اس کی اجازت کے بغیر بھی (اللہ کے راستے میں) خرچ رتی ہے تواہے آدھا ثواب ملتاہے۔

Barkat Rice Mills

Imran Khan to stay in 'my cell' if jailed: Rana Sanaullah

Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah said on Wednesday that PT chief Imran Khan would stay in 'my prison cell' if he is jailed. news channel, said that he is trying to keep PTI chief Imran Khan in the same prison cell where he was imprisoned

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Internship BAHAWALPUR: Mr. Justice Anwaarul Haq Pannun of Lahore High Court Bench addressing the Law Internship Certificates Distribution Ceremony in Islamia University Bahawalpur on Wednesday. Law Internship Certificates **Distribution Ceremony** Wednesday, 08 February, 2023 University of Bahawalpur, Pakistan in Collaboration with Lahore High Court, Bahawal

Road safety awareness crucial to reduce traffic fatalities, says President

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi on Wednesday said strict implementation of traffic rules and public awareness about road safety was crucial in the prevention of accidents, thus reducing fatalities.

The president urged the legislators to incorporate comprehensive road safety programmes into national planning.

Highlighting the role of parliamentarians in carrying out effective legislation on road safety, he stressed educating the communities for better enforce-

Addressing here at the 'Road safety conference for parliamentarians', the president said with increased traffic volume on roads, the importance of ensuring safety measures increased manifold to save precious lives.

Parliamentarians from across the world joined the conference, which was organized by the International Parliamentarians



European Union-funded project, and the Pakistan Institute of Parliamentary Services.

President Alvi said traffic accidents were one of the leading causes of deaths, mostly due to cranial injuries, and could prove traumatic for the entire family.

He said implementation of

with 'Mutehtakm Parlimaan, a cameras, safe road infrastructure, easy-to-understand traffic illustrations, and proper inspection of vehicles could contribute

> towards reducing accidents. The president also emphasized self-discipline by motorists, particularly the use of seatbelts and wearing of helmets.

He advised road users to

ly alert to avoid traffic crashes. Chairman Senate Sadiq Sanjrani, also the President International Parliamentarians Congress (IPC), said globally around 1.3 million people die and 50 million get injured in

traffic accidents annually. In Pakistan, he emphasized prioritizing the efforts to enact Congress (IPC) in collaboration traffic rules through surveillance remain mentally and physical-road safety laws at par with inter-

national standards and educate the stakeholders.

President Inter-Parliamentary Union Duarte Pacheco said road safety must be considered a serious health-related problem due to its direct and indirect costs and called upon the parliamentarians to act together on national health safety programmes.

Deputy Head of the EU Delegation in Pakistan Thomas Seiler stressed the importance of a holistic approach to road safety and urged the governments and partners to implement an

integrated safe system approach. Director General World Health Organization Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus in his video message mentioned that the Global Plan for the Decade of Action for Road Safety 2021-2030 emphasized reduction of traffic deaths by half.

The conference discussed five pillars of road safety including safety management, safer roads and public mobility, safe vehicles, safer road users, and post-crash response.

Ahsan Iqbal terms political stability, continuity of policies crucial for economic uplift News Desk

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Planning, Development, and Special Initiatives, Prof. Dr Ahsan Iqbal on Wednesday termed political stability and continuity of policies as essential for achieving economic development in the country.

"If you want to continue playing in the political theatre; you cannot bring positive reforms in the economic theatre", he said while speaking at a ceremony to celebrate the landmark of China-Pakistan Space Science and Technology cooperation on the eve of the return of Pakistani Seeds from Chinese Space at COMSTECH auditorium.

The ceremony was arranged by the Ministry of Science and Technology, the Embassy of the People's Republic of China in Pakistan, COMSTECH and the International Center for Chemical and Biological Center, University of Karachi.

This space mutagenesis for

was jointly collaborated by the People's Republic of China, the Pakistan Science Foundation (PSF) under the ministry, and the International Centre for Chemical and Biological Sciences, University of Kara-

Speaking on the occasion, Ahsan Iqbal said that strong efforts were needed to overcome the challenge of economic crisis inherited by the ineffective policies of the previous government.

"As a nation where we stand today; we have to decide either to support polarization, disorder or conflict in the country or uphold the principles of unity and solidarity", he said.

In her address, Charge d'Affaires of the Chinese Embassy in Pakistan, Madam, Pang Chunxue praised the scientists of both countries for their joint efforts in a successful scientific experiment. She said that experiment represents a landmark in China-Pakistan Science and Technology cooperation and will be recorded in crop improvement project the history of their friendship.

Pakistan dispatches emergency relief assistance to earthquake-hit Syria



Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Education, Rana Tanveer Hussain, Chairman NDMA, Lieutenant General Inam Haider and Ambassador of Syria, Dr. Ramez AlRaee on Wednesday attended NDMA's Assistance Package dispatching ceremony here at Islamabad International Airport.

The National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) in a news release said this tranche was part of the Prime Minister's announced

Imran Khan

assistance for earthquake affectees in Syria and Turkiye.

It comprised of 2,600 blankets and 270 big family tents out of cumulative 4,000 blankets and 6,000 tents as part of initial consignment.

The consignment was dispatched through special Chartered Flight of PIA to Syria.

While expressing grief over the loss of lives, the Minister said Pakistan would continue to support Syria in the humanitarian crisis caused by the earthquake.

Death toll crosses 11,000 as Erdogan visits affected areas

№ News Agencies /APP /Web Desk

ISLAMABAD: The death toll from the earthquake that struck Turkey and Syria on Monday has risen to more than 11,000. At least 8,574 people have died

in Turkey, the country's President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said on Wednesday. At least 2,530 have been killed in Syria.

Erdogan was speaking from Kahramanmaras during a visit to some of the areas worst hit by the

President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has acknowledged that there were some issues in responding on the first day since the earthquakes but has urged Turkish people to be patient and united.

He said there had been problems with roads and airports but that everything would get better by the day.

Erdogan also said citizens



Rescuers and civilians look for survivors under the rubble of collapsed buildings in Kahramanmaras,

should only heed communica- said, promising that no one will tion from authorities and ignore "provocateurs," as thousands of people complain about a lack of united," Erdogan added. resources and slow response by

be left in the streets. "This is the time for us to be

The bodies of victims are kept at a sports hall following a deadly New houses will be built, he earthquake in Kahramanmaras,

Hundreds of bodies in stadiums and parking lots lie on the ground as relatives carefully lift blankets from their faces to try to identi-

Nada, a Syrian woman, and her Turkish husband ask a staff member how best to find their niece and aunt among the more than 100 bodies lined up in the parking lot of the Hatay Research Hospital near the southern city of Antakya, Reuters reported.

Nearly 250 schools in Syria's government-controlled areas have been damaged due to the earthquakes, the country's staterun SANA news agency reported quoting education minister Darem

The damaged schools are in Aleppo, Lattakia, Tartous, Hama, and Idlib, Tabbaa said, adding that 126 schools have been turned into

envoy to Pakistan appointed AssttForeign Minister

Former Chinese



News Desk

BEIJING: Nong Rong, former Chinese ambassador to Pakistan, has been appointed assistant minister of foreign affairs, the State Council of China announced.

Nong, 56, was appointed Chinese ambassador to Pakistan in 2020. He held a farewell reception on Jan 16 in Islamabad announcing his departure, China Daily reported on Wednesday.

Nong spent the majority of his career in the Guangxi Zhuang autonomous region.

Terms Police Raids, Arrests as Political **Victimization**

👺 Bureau Report

LAHORE: Former premier and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chief Imran Khan has termed the latest series of police raids, arrests and custodial torture as political victimisation of the opposition leaders.

In a Twitter thread, Imran Khan strongly condemned the repeated police raids on former Punjab Chief Minister Pervaiz Elahi's home in Gujrat. He also condemned the 'arbitrary arrests and abductions' of his supporters and those who worked with him.

While slamming the incumbent government, Khan said, "This is naked fascism on the part of Imported Govt & their Handlers, simply to spread fear in all who support

Govt rubbishes rumours of petrol, diesel shortage in Pakistan

Commerce Reporter ISLAMABAD: The feder-

al government on Wednesday rubbished rumours of petrol and diesel shortage in Pakistan, stating that the oil reserves required by the country were well in stock.

"Sufficient useable stocks of petroleum products are available in the country to meet needs of petrol [363,085 Metric Ton 🕽 for 20 days and diesel [515,687 Metric Ton] for 29 days," Minister of State for Petroleum Dr Musadik Malik said while addressing a press conference in Islamabad.

He added that these were the other than cargoes arriving and waiting in the sea for berthing. He also warned the elements involved in hoarding petroleum products and creating artificial fuel shortage of 'dire consequences.'

Relief Consignment ISLAMABAD: NDMA dispatches emergency relief consignment for earthquake affectees in Syria from Islamabad Inter-

Dar appraises Korean envoy for potential investment areas

Example 2 City Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for finance and revenue, Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar apprised the Korean Ambassador about the potential investment areas and extended the present government's greater facilitation and support in this regard.

Suh Sangpyo, Ambassador of the Republic of Korea called on the Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar at Finance Division, said a press release issued here.

SAPM on Finance Tariq Bajwa, SAPM on Revenue Tariq Mehmood Pasha and senior officers from Finance Division attended the meeting.



Ishaq Dar shared the and highlighted the bilater- ment, human exchange and depth of friendly relations al ties between both coundevelopment cooperation. between Pakistan and Korea tries in areas of trade, invest- The Finance Minister also

highlighted that the present government is focusing on various other avenues of mutual interest so that the existing bilateral relations could be extended to a new

The Ambassador of the Republic of Korea expressed keen interest in enhancing and strengthening the bilateral relations between both countries, especially on trade and investment, which need to be enhanced.

Finance Minister Senator Ishaq Dar shared welcoming sentiments for pursuing investments in Pakistan and assured the Ambassador of the Republic of Korea of the present government's full support

Parliamentarians renew pledge to fight for Kashmir cause at all fronts

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Parliamentarians of both houses of Senate and National Assembly on Wednesday renewed their pledge to fight for the Kashmir cause at all fronts.

The legislators in the presence of Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) President Barrister Sultan Mehmood Chaudhry, Prime Minister Sardar Tanveer Ilvas Khan, and other members of cabinet and legislative assembly who were witnessing the joint session in the visiting gallery, assured to provide moral, political and diplomatic support to the people of Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) in their just cause for realization of right to self-determination.

National Assembly Speaker Raja Pervaiz Ashraf, addressing the joint session, said Pakistan's 220-million population was standing by Kashmiri broth-



to suppress their indigenous Nations Security Council resomovement of independence at

National Assembly Raja Riaz Ahmad, expressing solidarity with Kashmir, lauded the efforts of the AJK government and people for their unwavering support and unflinching efforts for the independence of their brothers who were in the world's largest open-air prison

ers through thick and thin community to settle down the

and they would not let anyone Kashmir dispute as per United

Pakistan Muslim League Leader of the opposition in (Nawaz) Senator Irfan-ul-Haque Siddiqui, condemning the illegal detention of the IIOJK people, proposed the chair to constitute a committee comprising legislators of both houses to take up the case of Kashmir at the international for aeffectively.

Balochistan Awami party's on the other side of the border. Senator Danesh Kumar He urged the international expressed the hope that one day the people of IIOJK would

ence. He said the minority communities were with their Kashmiri brothers and would remain so until and unless they reach their destinv.

Jamaat-e-Islami's Senator Mushtaq Ahmad Khan highlighted the Indian government's nefarious designs to bring demographic changes by populating approximately four million outsiders in the HOJK.

Criticizing the previous government's policy on Kashmir, he opposed the two accords including Kartarpur Corridor and ceasefire with the Indian government.

He proposed the incumbent government not have dialogue or trade with the neighbouring country until and unless the Kashmir dispute was not resolved.

He also appreciated the Chief of Army Staff General Syed Asim Munir's initiative and urged the national leadership to chalk out a comprehen-

witness the dawn of independ- sive roadmap for the peaceful resolution of Kashmir dispute on permanent basis

Ĵamiat Ulema-e-Islam-Fazl Senator Maulana Abdul Ghafoor Haideri severely criticized the previous government's policy about Kashmir and blamed it for betraving the innocent people of IIOJK and doing nothing against the Indian government's illegal acts of August 5, 2019.

He proposed the government to seek help of the United Nations and Islamic countries through diplomatic channels to find out an amicable solution of

the Kashmir issue. Pakistan Peoples Party's MNA Mir Ghulam Ali Talpur said Kashmir and Palestine were two big issues of Muslim Ummah on this planet.

He said to take all possible measures for the settlement of Kashmir dispute as Kashmiris had kept their high hopes with the Pakistani government and

After the announcement of PTI

MNAs' return to the National Assem-

bly, the federal government made a

move to accept their resignations in

an apparent bid to reduce the number

The de-notified PTI MNAs includ-

ed Riaz Fatyana, Sardar Tariq Hussain,

Mohammad Yaqub Sheikh, Murtaza

Iqbal, Sardar Mohammad Khan

Leghari, Zile Humma, Rukhsana

Naveed, Ghazala Saifi, Nousheen

Hamid, Sobia Kamal Khan and others.

nations of 70 PTI members last month

Ashraf had already accepted resig-

of opposition lawmakers.

WAPDA to add 10,000 MW hydel electricity, 12 MAF water storage by 2030

Commerce Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Water and Power Development Authority (WAPDA) will add as much as 10,000 MW of low-cost, green and clean hydel electricity to enhance power generation capacity of the country by 2030.

Consequently, the hydel generation would become double to about 20,000 MW from 9,500 MW. In addition, the gross water storage capacity in the country will also enhance by another 12 MAF. This will be a major contribution by WAPDA for economic stability and social uplift of Pakistan.

This was stated by Chairman WAPDA Engineer Lt Gen (Retd) Sajjad Ghani, while addressing the first conference of the general managers and project directors, said a press

The 2-day conference was held at WAPDA house to review progress on discuss the issues to find out ways and Kachhi Canal etc.

means for effective implementation of these projects.

Member finance, member water, member power, general managers and project directors from across the country attended the conference.

Addressing the conference, the chairman said that WAPDA has been a tremendous organisation, which had led the national development for decades.

Referring to the development portfolio of projects in hand, the chairman said that WAPDA was the only organisation in the world that was simultaneously constructing the largest number of water and hydropower projects.

During the 2-day conference, the general managers and projects directors made detailed presentations about their projects, which included Diamer Basha Dam, Dasu Hydropower Project, Mohmand Dam, Tarbela 5th Extension, K-IV, the under-construction projects and Nai Gaj Dam, Kurram Tangi Dam,

Sheikh Rasheed handed over to Murree police on transit remand

№ News Desk

on Wednesday handed over Awami Muslim League (AML) Chief Sheikh Rasheed Ahmed to Murree police on one-day transit remand.

produced before the judicial magis- him before the relevant court tomortrate where the police sought his tran- row at 2 pm.

As the proceeding commenced, ISLAMABAD: An Islamabad court Rashid's lawyers — Ali Bukhari and Intizar Panjhota — and the prosecutor presented their arguments.

After hearing arguments, the court approved Rasheed's one-day transit The former interior minister was remand and directed police to present

Punjab, KP by-elections: Centre refuses to give additional funds to ECP

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: The federal government has refused to provide additional the Election Commission of Pakistan funds to Election Commission of Paki- (ECP) had asked for additional funds stan (ECP) for holding by-elections of Rs14 billion for the Punjab and KP in Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) citing the country's economic situation.

According to details, the Ministry of Finance has apprised the electoral watchdog of its decision, saying that the latter should withdraw the demand for additional funds in the interest of the country.

In the statement, the finance ministry said the country was facing a severe economic crisis, adding that funds were also required for flood recovery and rehabilitation.

"The country has to complete terms and conditions of International Monetary Fund (IMF)," it said, adding that additional funds will only be provided if the situation improves.

The Punjab and KP assemblies were dissolved on Jan 18 and Jan 14, respectively, after former prime minister Imran Khan had announced to dissolve assemblies in an attempt to force the government to hold snap

As per the Constitution of Pakistan,

polls need to be held for the dissolved assemblies in 90 days.

It is pertinent to mention here that by-elections.

Earlier in the day, President Arif Alvi asked the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) to immediately issue the election schedule for Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa provincial

In a letter addressed to Chief Election Commissioner Sikandar Sultan Raja today, President ArifAlvi said that the election of an assembly is to be held within 90 days of the dissolution as provided by Article 224(2) of the Constitution.

He highlighted that the conduct and holding of elections was the primary and essential duty of the ECP as per PART VIII of the Constitution, particularly Article 218 (3) which assigned the duty to the ECP to ensure

the holding of fair and free elections. He conveyed that it was ultimately the Commission, which if it failed to discharge its functions and duties, was to be held responsible and answerable for the violation of the Constitution of the country.

Imran Khan to stay in 'my cell' if jailed: Rana Sanaullah

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah said on Wednesday that PTI chief Imran Khan would stay in 'my prison cell' if he is jailed.

Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah, while talking to a private news channel, said that he is trying to keep PTI chief Imran Khan in the same prison cell where he was imprisoned.

Regarding the latest series of arrests of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leaders and supporters, Rana Sanaullah said that the authorities would arrest Fawad Chaudhry again if the secretary of the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) sends a request.

The interior minister said that Awami Muslim League (AML) chief Sheikh Rasheed should show some courage as the case filed against him was not fake. He clarified that a case would be filed if the ECP secretary complained about receiving threats.

Sanaullah said that the government

the people behind bars whoever needed to be arrested. He added that he is trying that Imran Khan would be kept in the same prison cell where he was imprisoned. He said that these people should

has sufficient space in jails for keeping

know about the hardship of jails. "Imran Khan has never given any evidence of his propaganda on differ-

"A case was filed against Sheikh Rasheed for what he had delivered in his statement. [Senator] Azam Swati was arrested for a controversial tweet. A case was lodged against Fawad Chaudhry for giving threats."

Regarding Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz (PML-N) central leader Shahid

Khaqan Abbasi, Sanaullah said that Abbasi also expressed his opinion before the party leadership." About Nawaz's return, the interior minister said that he has never given a certain statement regarding PML-N Quaid's return in January or December.

LHC suspends ECP notification to denotify 43 PTI lawmakers

👺 Bureau Report

LAHORE: The Lahore High Court (LHC) on Wednesday suspended the Election Commission of Pakistan's notification that de-notified 43 MNAs of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf(PTI).

LHC judge Justice Shahid Karim heard the case and restricted the commission from holding by-elections in the 43 constituencies until further orders.

The court also issued notices to the federal government, NA Speaker Raja Pervaiz Ashraf and Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP).

The LHC issued directives on a plea filed by Riaz Fatyana, Nasarullah Khan, and other PTI leaders challenging the acceptance of their resignations as MNAs by Speaker Raja Pervaiz



accused the NA speaker of accepting resignations to 'politically victimize' the opponents. They pleaded with the court to nullify the decision of speaker Raja Pervaiz Asharaf and the order of In the petition, the PTI leaders the Election Commission of Pakistan.

On Jan 25, the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) de-notified 43 Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) members of the National Assembly (MNAs) following the acceptance of their resignations by NA Speaker Raja baz Sharif as the new prime minister.

in two phases. It is pertinent to mention here that the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf had announced resignations from the National Assembly on April 11 last year, minutes before the election of Sheh-

Published by: Almass Ayoub Sabir from Zero Point Printers Rawalpindi.

Bazaar launched a raw material sourcing platform

Bureau Report

KARACHI: Bazaar, Pakistan's leading B2B commerce, fintech and supply chain platform for 5M+ businesses, is launching its newest business vertical, Bazaar Industrial-a simplified raw material sourcing platform for manufacturers across Pakistan.

products to simplify operations across ries including chemicals, construcmultiple verticals to businesses countion, steel, textile, polymers, paint etc. al sourcing for customers and supplithis space."

trywide. Since its inception in 2020, Bazaar has raised over \$100m in venture financing and has scaled to become the leading merchant aggregator with a footprint across 50+ cities.

With the launch of Bazaar Industrial, Bazaar is serving as an aggregator to solve for the pain points faced by suppliers and buyers in raw mate-Bazaar provides a digital suite of rial procurement across 15+ catego-

This vertical is headed by its Managing Director, Ali Ilyas, who brings 15+ years of experience in chemical marketing and distribution and has worked with top local and international suppliers for the Pakistani market. "It's been incredible to join this rocketship with its stellar employ-

er brand, world-class technology stack

and significant capital base which will

be a game changer in local raw materi-

Hamza Jawaid, the co-founder of Bazaar, adds, "We are incredibly excited to take the impact and learnings from our retail business to solve similar challenges for the industrial segment that is a major driver of Pakistan's economy. In Ali and the entire Bazaar Industrial team we have deep expertise and stellar drive to establish a strong and growing business in

LOSS KARACHI: People stand near burned boats at Fish Harbour area in Provincial Capital.

Sardar Tanveer Ilyas attended the Joint session of the Parliament agreement



Abdul Majeed Tahir

ISLAMABAD: Azad Jammu and Kashmir Prime Minister Sardar Tanveer Ilyas Khan attended the joint session of the Parliament as a special guest. Prime Minister Sardar Tanveer of the joint session. Prime Minister was invited to participate in the joint session as a special guest by Speaker of the National Assembly Raja Pervez Ashraf. Talking to media representatives on this occasion, Prime Minister Sardar Tanveer Ilvas Khan said.

resolution on Kashmir has been passed and the political, moral and diplomatic support of the Kashmiri people has been reiterated, he said. To solve the President Azad Jammu and Kashmir Kashmir problem, the OIC also has to Barrister Sultan Mehmood Chaudhry,

organization of the Muslim Ummah, the United Nations has to play its important role. The priceless sacrifices they have made for freedom are indescribable.

He said that today the entire nation has once again paid tribute to the Ilvas Khan watched the proceedings millions of martyrs who sacrificed their blood for the freedom movement of Kashmir by reiterating their full support to Kashmiris. He said that the United Nations should act on Kashmir To implement the resolutions and prevent India from violating human rights in Occupied Kashmir. He said That today's day is important in that the unanimous resolution of the national history when a unanimous joint session of the Parliament on Kashmir is of utmost importance. This voice during the joint session of Pakistan's from the Parliament of Pakistan will powerful national body Parliament reach the world and They will be made aware of their own responsibilities.

The joint session of the Parliament, move forward and play its role as an former Prime Ministers Sardar Abdul

Qayyum Niazi, Raja Farooq Haider Khan, Sardar Attique Ahmad Khan, Sardar Muhammad Yaqub Khan, Government Ministers., Special Assistants, Advisors and Parliamentary Secretaries, Khawaja Farooq Ahmad Chaudhry Rafiq Nayyar, Chaudhry Arshad, Muhammad Igbal Akbar Ibrahim, Chaudhry Maqbool, Chaudhry Ali Shan Soni, Hafiz Hamid Raza, Abdul Majid Khan, Azhar Sadiq, Sardar Faheem Akhtar Rabbani, Akbar Ibrahim, Sardar Mir Akbar, Chaudhry Akhlaq, Chaudhry Rashid, Dewan Chaghatai, Begum Imtiaz Naseem, Nisar Ansar Abdali, Javed Butt, Opposition Leader Chaudhry Latif Akbar, Chaudhry Yasin, Faisal Mumtaz Rathore, Qasim Majeed, Javed Badhanvi, Javed Ayub Waqar Noor, Ahmed Raza Qadri, Javed Ayub, Sardar Hasan Ibrahim while Member Kashmir Council Hanif Malik, Shuja Khurshid Rathore, Younis Mir were also present on this occasion.

CTES signed an agreement

腾 Mian Rashid Asghar



FAISALABAD: person from NTU Engr Dr. Hafsa Jamshaid has informed that National Textile University (NTU) Pakistan and

China Textile Engineering Society (CTES), China signed an agreement for Training center with the name of "Alliance of International Textile Science & Technology Training Center"(AITST). This Training center is going to be developed in National Textile University.

Activities here included comprise many things but not limited to Training, Academic exchange, Industrial investigation.

This agreement is under the banner of Belt and Road Alliance of International Textile Science & Technology (AITST).

Committee members of AITST and focal person from NTU Engr Dr. Hafsa Jamshaid further said adding that, this will be a milestone which will be a support hand for Belt and Road Initiative.

The developments, specifically related to industry will be of premium importance for industrial development, new product innovation, product and process opti-

Kashmiris to resist Hitler of India despite all odds: Mushaal

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: The Chairperson of Peace and Culture Organisation, Mushaal Hussein Mullick made it clear that brave Kashmiri people would continue their resistance movement against Hitler of India despite all odds till breaking the shackles of Indian slav-

Speaking as a chief guest along with Yasin Malik,s daughter Raziyah Sultana, Peace and Culture Organisation Secretary General Sabien Hussein Mullick at an Art exhibition here at National College of Arts to express solidarity with Kashmiri people, Mushaal said that artists and painters were playing an important role by using their pens, poems and brushes to tell the outside world what was happening in



the occupied valley.

She said that the brutal RSS-inspired regime made life a hell for the Kashmiris who had been battling for their inalienable right of right to self-determination for the last seven

Mushaal said that the Kashmir dispute exposed the UN and world

powers' duplicity and double standards, as they were just paying lip services rather to take practical and meaningful solutions to resolve the problem.

The Hurriyat leader lamented that the world showed unity to denounce Russian attack on Ukraine and provided all kinds of support but no such response was seen with regard to the fast festering Kashmir dispute.

Mushaal reminded that the scenic valley was turned into a slaughterhouse and largest open prison but the world was looking at the world worst human catastrophe like silent spectator.

She said that senior Kashmiri leaders including her husband Muhammad Yasin Malik was kept in detention and were deprived of all fundamental and legal rights.

Mushaal went on to say that Hindutva regime used all brutal and inhuman acts to spread fear among Kashmiri people to defuse the flame of freedom struggle.

However, she stated that all fascist tactics by notorious Narendra Modiled Hindutva government proved counterproductive, as the freedom struggle intensified with each passing day.

Commissioner Faisalabad tasks FWMC, PHA to highlight city's beauty in 20 days



腾 Mian Rashid Asghar

FAISALABAD: The Divisional Commissioner Silwat Saeed assigned the task of highlighting the beauty of the city to the departments in 20 days and said that the goals of cleaning the city, beautifying the green belts, rehabilitating the sewage system, making functional of street lights and planting trees should be completed. The Divisional Commissioner along with Deputy Commissioner Ali Anan Qamar paid a detailed visit to the entire city.

DG PHA Rai Naeemullah Bhatti, CEO Faisalabad Waste Management Company Bilal Feroze Joya, MD WASA Jabbar Anwar, CO Metropolitan Corporation Zubair Hussain and other officers were also present. The Divisional Commissioner Issued instructions to make the green belts absorbent and asked the PHA to start plantation work along with landscaping of the green belts. The Divisional Commissioner observed the cleanliness situation across the city and asked the FWMC officers that the standard of cleanliness should exceed public expectations. She ordered immediate steps to beautify the Rakh branch canal by cleaning it and said that the preparations for Jashan Baharan should be started. She said that the citizens should see the city attractive very soon. She also asked the citizens to identify the problems for $\,$ which effective measures will be taken. The Divisional Commissioner and Deputy Commissioner also paid visit to Sheikhupura Road and other roads and ordered the remodeling of the Nishatabad Overhead $\,$ Bridge, making the street lights functional and replacing the damaged poles immediately. She ordered the departments to take immediate action to ensure cleanliness in front of Industries and Marriage Halls located on Canal Road and Sheikhupura Road and said to contact the owners of Industries and Mirrage Halls in this regard.

She urged to make the parking plaza functional without delay. She said that It is essential to make the parking plaza functional to solve the serious problems of parking in the markets adjacent to the city

The Divisional Commissioner reached the various petrol pumps and while reviewing the supply of fuel to the consumers, inquired about getting fuel from the motorcyclists present at the spot. She also checked the weighing scales at the petrol pumps and clarified that there was no room for tampering. She also checked the sales process at the flour sale/ trucking points at Riaz Shahid Chowk and other places. The Deputy Commissioner informed that sale of flour is being ensured. He said that

Clear instructions have been issued to provide flour to customers who even did not have national identity card and informed that by entering their ID card number the flour should be sold to consumers.

Ceremony to pay tribute to late SM Muneer

News Desk

LAHORE: A ceremony is being organized in Lahore on February 12 to pay tribute to the late noted industrialist of Pakistan. S Muneer, for showing unwavering lifelong commitment to several noble charitable causes in the country.

The non-profit, Green Crescent Trust (GCT), and noted businessman and APTMA Patron-in-Chief, Dr Gohar Ejaz, have joined hands to jointly organize the event. Punjab Governor, Muhammad Baligh Ur Rehman, and provincial Industries Minister, SM Taneer, will grace the event as Chief Guest and Guest of Honor.

The ceremony will be attended by noted businessmen, industrialists, concerned philanthropists, and donors who support noteworthy charitable initiatives in the country.

On the occasion, funds will be raised for the education of at least 10,000 children belonging to the destitute families in the country. These children are enrolled in the charitable schools of the GCT in the underprivileged and remote parts of the country. The GCT has been running a network of 160 charitable schools

with an enrolment of 30,900 children from less-deprived areas. GCT, CEO, Zahid Saeed said that the late SM Muneer was one of the leading patrons of the drive of his charity to provide quality school education to the children of the backward areas.

He said the GCT would carry forward the mission of the late leading industrialist and philanthropist by increasing both the number of charitable schools and enrolment of the children from underprivileged areas in them.

He said the GCT had the aim to increase the number of its charitable schools to 250 with an enrolment of 100,000 out-of-school children till 2025.

More such fundraisers will soon be organized in Sailkot, Faisalabad, and Islamabad to support the same charitable enrol-

Renowned TV actor, Adnan Siddiqui, and GCT Trustee Abrar Ahmed will also attend the ceremony to show their commitment to the cause of enrolling out-of-school children.

One person was killed and seven injured in two separate firing incidents

Mazir



WANA: According to details, two different unfortunate incidents took place in Kadikot and Ghowakhowa area of tribal district of South Waziristan Lower Wana.

As a result, one person died while seven people were injured, the injured people have been transferred to a private hospital.

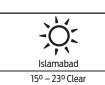
Sources say that the local people have reached for ceasefire against each other and the ceasefire was lifted on the spot.

Expressing grief over the incident, the local people said that a land dispute was going on between the two parties Now, as the land dispute inten-

sified, it reached the point of firing. Police sources say that the incident is being investigated.

It should be remembered that earlier many precious lives have been lost due to land disputes.





SERVICES		
Namaz '	Timings	
Fajr		
Zohr	12: 22 pm	
Asr	4: 07 pm	
Maghrib	5: 45 pm	
Isha	7: 10 pm	

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MH	561116
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CDA	. 9208301-04
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Islamabad Metropoli	tan
Corporation	9209224
Potohar Town	9209224
Rawal Town	5773343

COMPLAINTS

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Pearl-**Continental** *Hotel* Rawalpindiwelcomes new Executive Chef



Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Pearl-Continental Hotel Rawalpindi is proud to welcome Sadaqat Sohail as our new Executive Chef. With two decades of working experience in Pakistan and the Middle East, Sadaqat excels in Continental and Arabic Cuisines.

He is known for his innovative cooking style and providing exceptional dining experiences. Sadagat is also a senior member of the World Chef Association and an Executive Member of the Pakistan Chef Association. Our guests are invited to come and enjoy Sadaqat's delicious and inspiring dishes at Pearl-Continental Hotel Rawalpindi.

Sardar Tanveer inaugurates Pink Bus service

跨 🛮 Bureau Report

MUZAFFARABAD: Government of Azad Kashmir has launched a special pink bus service for women in the capital city of Muzaffarabad. The Bus service was inaugurated by Prime Minister Sardar Tanveer Ilyas Khan here today. On the occasion, senior Minister Khawaja Farooq Ahmed, Advisor to the Government Sardar Muhammad Hussain and others were present. The initiative will go a long way to provide comfortable and dignified traveling facilities to women folk especially the working women working in public and

Speaking at the inauguration ceremony the Prime Minister said that the government was paying special attention to the development of women and increasing investment in the region, including the promotion of tourism. He said that special programs were being launched to empower women. Successful women program, he said, has also been started to make women skilled.

"The introduction of a special bus service for working women is to provide convenience to those women who used to travel by public transport in difficult conditions", the PM said adding that the pink Bus service would ensure a comfortable journey for working women. "It is the responsibility of governments to provide a favorable environment for women to move forward", he said.

Announcing supply of 2 more buses for the pink bus service project he said that trained women drivers would be appointed on priority basis for the pink bus service. The Prime Minister of Azad Kashmir also announced a donation of 25 lakh rupees for the social welfare organization and 12 thousand rupees per month to the women who work in the organization on a monthly salary of 1,000. A large number of women including Raja Sabeel Riaz, Prime Minister's Spokesperson Toafsee Abbasi, Coordinator along with Prime Minister Tariq Qureshi, Coordinator Jabbar Khan Mughal were present.

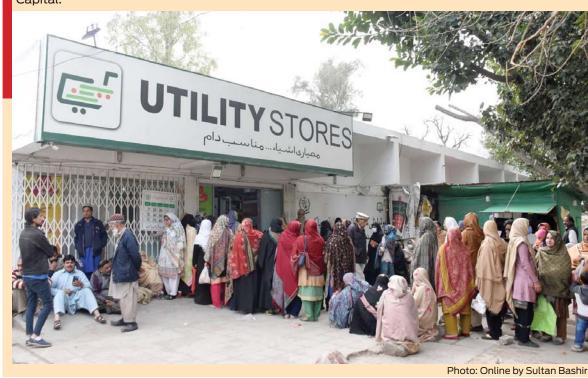
Meanwhile, GoC 12 Dev Major General on his new appointment.

Wajid Uzair had a farewell meeting with Prime Minister Azad Jammu and Kashmir Sardar Tanveer Ilyas Khan. Speaking on this occasion, the Prime Minister hailed the unprecedented sacrifices rendered by the Pakistan Army for the defense of the motherland.

He said that the armed forces have demonstrated highest degree of professionalism while dealing the challenges faced by the country internally and externally." Our army has the capability to deal with all challenges", he said adding that the illustrious army of Pakistan was a role model for the world. He said that the Pak Army was being hailed for its professionalism not only in the country but rest of the world. "Pakistan Army has significantly contributed in the world peace while performing its services with the United Nations Peace Mission abroad and the world has recognized the services of the Pakistani forces in every place", the PM said. The Prime Minister extended his good wishes to Major General Wajid Uzair

Subsidies

ISLAMABAD: Women stand in a queue to buy oil, outside a utility store at sector G-6, in Federal Capital.



'Both Sit in Silence for a While' collaboration of the European Union

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: OLOMOPOLO Media is officially showcasing its hit theatrical production, "Both Sit In Silence For a While" featuring renowned actors Ali Junejo and Rasti Farooq at Gallery 11, PNCA in Islamabad. The play is a dark comedy written, directed, and co-produced by Ali Junejo. Having garnered great success in Karachi and Lahore, the play is now being performed in Islamabad, with the collaboration of the European Union.

'Both Sit in Silence for a While' guarantees spectators an edge-of-your-seats experience they would not want to miss.

Voicing his take on the play Junejo states that, "Both Sit In Silence For A While' is a play born of many little musings and maybe some reflection. All the fun 'what if's' I could throw at these two, I chucked at them mercilessly. To see what would happen." Junejo started his career as a theater artist in Karachi. His previous



performances include, 'Waiting for Godot', 'Dead End' and 'Equus'. Junejo then made his film debut in Saim Sadiq's international award-winning film 'Joyland', bagging two best actor awards.

Rasti Farooq, who acts alongside Junejo and is also the co-producer of this play comments, "Both Sit In Silence For A While tickles that part of my brain that wants to see people be unreasonable and merciless with one another. Because oftentimes that's the place where most of us hide in our most private moments. It's been a supreme joy traversing that space with Ali." Applauded for her commendable acting, Farooq has performed in various plays and short films including 'Stand Alone', 'Gidh' and 'May I Have This Seat?' She made her feature film debut in with Junejo in 'Joyland'.

Co-producer Kanwal Khoosat comments, "Join us for when words are more than we wanted yet less than what we need! OLOMOPOLO is breaking barriers as usual bringing you an unconventional story, an intimate audience experience, and a boundary-bending take on being coupled".

On the collaboration, H.E. Dr. Riina Kionka, The Ambassador of the European Union to Pakistan comments, "The European Union supports art and culture in Pakistan and globally as part of our commitment to promoting cultural diversity and fostering mutual understanding between people of different backgrounds. We believe that it can help to foster a sense of shared identity and belonging, to build bridges between different communities based on mutual recognition and respect."

PHMA demands regionally competitive energy tariffs for exporters

News Desk

LAHORE: Paki-Hosiery Manufacturers Association (PHMA) has



for exporters. PHMA Zonal Chairman Naseer Butt cautioned the government saying the move of increasing energy tariffs

to enhance Pakistan's exports in previous years. He asked the prime minister and his economic team to ensure a level-playing field by offering competitive energy tariffs and continuing the Duty Drawback of Local Taxes and Levies scheme, as committed in the new five-year textile and apparel policy.

He stressed that energy rates for industries should be brought at par or below the manufacturers and exporters in tariff prevailing in the competing regional countries.

The PHMA zonal chief pointed out that to enable the textile industry to compete

was unwise and would sabo- countries, electricity rates of tage hard efforts of exporters Rs19.99 per unit and re-gasified liquefied natural gas (RLNG) rates of \$9 mmbtu should continue.

Utility rates of industrial sector should be reviewed on an annual basis and if rates in the regional countries fall, the tariff for domestic utilities should also be brought at par with it, he said. If RLNG rates are reduced internationally from existing level, then this benefit should be passed on to

the textile value chain. He added that the Duty Drawback of Taxes (DDT) and Drawback of Local Taxes and Levy (DLTL) schemes were effectively against regional introduced by the government

redeem their local taxes paid on export consignments because earlier there were no taxes and levies on exports.

Hence, reimbursement of DDT and DLTL to exporters is not an incentive from the government rather it is the amount paid back to traders

against taxes, he added. He said that the exports are important source of foreign currency and play a crucial role in its balance of payments. Exports contribute directly to GDP growth, employment generation and provide the only sustainable long-term solution. Pakistan's exports have seen an

upward trend especially during

FY20-FY22 where textile

due to exporters' demand to exports grew by a phenome-

nal 55% in just two years. Focus on export growth necessarily involves promoting textiles as this sector contributes 62% of all exports. Pakistan's textile industry, however, is facing a major crisis as it is rapidly losing credibility and competitiveness in the global market.

The \$19.3 billion industry, which relies heavily on exports, is experiencing a decline in global shipments. This situation is causing concern among its loyal international customers, who are becoming increasingly skeptical about the industry's ability to meet deadlines and fulfill orders in a timely

PRCS donates \$ 25,000 for Syrian earthquake victims



City Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Red Crescent Society has donated a generous sum of \$ 25,000 to the Syrian Embassy in Pakistan for the relief and recovery of Syrian earthquake victims. PRCS Chairman Sardar Shahid Ahmed Laghari handed over a donation cheque of 25,000 dollars to Syrian Ambassador Dr. Ramez Alraee at Syrian Embassy here on Wednesday.

Sardar Shahid Ahmed Laghari also recited Fatiha for the victims and expressed his grief and sorrow over the destruction and casualties caused by the earthquake. Secretary General PRCS Muhammad Abaidullah Khan was also present on this occasion.

Sardar Shahid Ahmed Laghari, while assuring all possible cooperation, said that the doors of PRCS are always open for Syrian brethren." It is not possible to fight natural calamity, but we are with Syria in this hour of sorrow and trouble", he added.

Syrian Ambassador Dr. Ramez Alraee expressed his gratitude for the assistance and cooperation, calling Pakistan his second home. He also requested for the supply of medical equipment to save the lives of the injured.

Sardar Shahid Ahmed Laghari indicated all possible support on behalf of Red Crescent to help the Syrian earthquake victims.

Sheikh Abdul Waheed condemns blasphemy against Prophet (SAW)

News Desk



ISLAMABAD: A prominent social and political leader of Pakistan Muslim League-N Rawalpindi, and the President of International Human Rights Moment Rawalpindi Division, Sheikh Abdul Waheed, on the matter of insulting the honor of Rasulullah sallallaahu alayhi wa sallam,applead to federal and provincial government, judiciary, administration and Appealed to the law enforcement agencies to take strict action against the accused

involved in this crime. In Pakistan, created in the name of Kalima Tayyaba, whoever dares to do should be punished severely so that no one will dare to do such

an unholy act in the future. In one of his statements, Sheikh Abdul Waheed said that insolence in the glory of the Holy Prophet is an attack on our faith, religion, life

and our survival The decision of this case will be the faith and basis of the judiciary. The police should issue a challan immediately.

We appeal to our honorable judiciary to hear the case on a daily basis and order the punishment of the insolent Rasulullah sallallahu alayhi wasallam within one month.

He further said that Pakistan cannot afford any extremism. To make Pakistan a safe and peaceful state, this insolent act has to be crushed.

NUST prepares relief aid worth PKR 4 Million for earthquake victims of Turkiye



😂 Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Following a massive 7.8-magnitude earthquake in Turkiye and Syria, NUST Islamabad has joined the Government of Pakistan in its relief efforts for providing humanitarian assistance to the victims of brotherly nations

So far, NUST has prepared relief aid worth PKR 4 Millionfor earthquake victims of Turkiyeand continues its efforts through Donation Camps established outside Gates 1 and 2, and at Concordia 1, NUST Campus, Islamabad. An appeal has also been launched with messages being disseminated through various platforms of digital media requesting people to be part of the noble cause.

A number of items are required for in-kind donations including overcoats, raincoat, boots, sweaters, trousers, gloves and undergarments, tents and bed mattresses, blankets, sleeping bags, gas cylinders and heaters, food boxes and women's hygiene products.

Account details for cash donations are as follows: Account No: 2292-79173412-01 Account Title: NUST Flood Relief Fund Bank Name: Habib Bank Limited Branch: NUST Branch, Sector H-12, Islamabad IBAN: PK82HABB0022927917341201

Turkiye Earthquake: Funeral Prayers in Absentia in Faisal Masjid on Friday

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The funeral prayers in absentia for the people of Turkiye and Syria who lost their lives in the recent huge earthquake shall be offered in Faisal Masjid on February 10 after jumma prayers at 1: 30. On this occasion, faithful shall pray for the eternal peace of Turk-

ish and Syrian Muslims who died in the earthquake. Ambassadors of Muslim countries, prominent political figures, senior officials of Islamabad administration and a large number of citizens from the twin cities will participate in the funeral prayers in absentia.

Thurssday, February 9, 2023

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People suffering from obesity-related diseases

n recent years, the issue of obesity has become a major health crisis in Pakistan, with a growing number of people suffering from obesity-related diseases such as heart disease, diabetes, and cancer. The considerable volume of research suggests that sugary drinks have become among the major contributor to the growing obesity and related health problems like Type 2 diabetes in Pakistan. Average sugary drink of 500 ml contains 12 to 17 teaspoons of sugar. People who consume sugary drinks regularly have a 30 percent higher risk of developing type 2 diabetes.

"Since the government of Pakistan is now negotiating several measures with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to overcome economic challenges, it is important to prioritize interventions which could help cut the expenses and also generate revenue to meet the short fall" said by Sana Ullah Ghumman, General Secretary at Pakistan National Heart Association. "Taxing sugary drinks is an evidence based intervention to reduce the health care expenditures and generating significant revenue for Pakistan. More than 80 countries around the world has already imposed taxes and impact is promising" he added.

"The rising consumption of sugary drinks is putting serious threat to public health and economy of the country. As per International Diabetes Federation (IDF), more than 1100 people are dying daily due to diabetes and its complication in Pakistan" said by Dr. Baseer Khan Achackzai, Director General Ministry of National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination. "Our Ministry have proposed the Ministry of Finance to increase taxes on sugary drinks. The increased cost of sugary drinks will encourage consumers to choose healthier alternatives, such as water or unsweetened beverages. This shift towards healthier choices will help to reduce the consumption of liquid sugar and improve the overall health of the population" he added.

"The research studies in the past had indicated a huge potential to reduce the health expenditure and generate revenue by taxing sugary drinks in Pakistan". said by Munawar Hussain consultant Food Policy Program at Global Health Advocacy Incubator. "For example, the study by world bank in 2022 revealed that if the government increases 50pc federal excise duty on all sugary drinks, it will bring an annual health gain of 8,500 disability-adjusted life years (DALYs) along with adding an economic value of \$8.9 million to public health and \$810 million average annual tax increase in revenue for the next 10 years." He added.

Keeping in view of this potential and strategic nature of the intervention, the Pakistan government should increase significant tax (FED or levy) on all type of sugary drinks including sodas, energy drinks, juices, flavored milk and iced teas etc. Any resistance from beverage industry on such taxes should be rejected in the best public interest. Finally, the IMF and government may work closely with nonprofit organizations raising their voice on this important issue. By working together, these organizations can help to create a more cohesive and coordinated approach to addressing the obesity crisis in Pakistan.

KP's traditional cuisines keep people warm, healthy in winter season

Husna Khattak

he Khyber Pakhince, which is wellknown for its diversity of culture has also been acclaimed internationally for its mouth-watering food cuisines mostly brought by the invaders, kings and developed by the people, who later settled in the region.

Known as a land of hospitality, rich cultural heritage, snow-clad mountains peaks and Buddha Era's relics, KP being a gateway to the Central Asian Republics (CARs) is known to international and domestic travelers but the painting of its historical importance would remain incomplete without mentioning the master strokes of its traditional cuisines.

The famous Chapli Kabab of buffalo meat, lamb Karahi cooked in pure lard, Penda of southern districts including DI Khan, Bannu and Lakki Marwat, slowly cooked beef roush and Kabuli pulao (rice) mostly introduced by foreigners, kings and warriors, who stayed here before marching to the subcontinent via historic Khyber Pass, attracts foodies due to its delicious taste and high energy ingredients.

Renowned food Vbloggers of world fame, Mark Weins of food channel Migrationology and Tevor James of Food Ranger having millions of subscribers

also visited Peshawar where they enjoyed the traditional cuisines including Chappli Kabab, Matton Karahi and juicy lamb meat at Namak Mandi, a historic food street of Peshawar.

The famous dish is fried in a specially designed pan prepared in pure animal fat that gives special aroma, salty taste and flavor to cuisine savored by food lovers. Almost every city of the province and bazaars of Pakistan have abounded cuisines shops where Chapli Kabab is prepared with minced buffalo meat of buffalo and special ingredients and spices on firewood in a cozy environment.

The origin of Chapli Kabab is unknown, however, Qari Javed Iqbal writes in his book 'Saqafat Sarhad Tarikh Ke Aveene Me' (Frontier culture in the mirror of history) that Mughals, Turkish, Ghaznis and Afghans, who invaded subcontinent through historic Khyber Pass, had preferred meat in their dishes that led to the introduction of Chapli Kabab in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

Qari Javed writes that Chapli Kabab's shops was found at Karimo Kababi in Nothia, Jalil Kababi, Mohmand Tore Kabai in Firdous Bazaar, Tarojaba Kebabi on Grand Trunk Road and Bakhshi Pul at Peshawar where travelers enjoyed its delicious bites before marching to Indo-Pak subcontinent for trade and of Mohmand Toray Kabab at Firdos bazaar Peshawar told APP that people from across the country come here to eat Chapli Kabab especially during winter due to purity of meat and delectable taste besides freshness of components being used in its preparation.

Despite the introduction of many western foods and snacks' varieties, he said the popularity of Chapli Kababs has not decreased in the province where its demand was increasing with each passing day especially during the winter.

'Mutton Karahi' also known as Karhi Ghost, Dumba Karahi, Balti Ghost and Dumpukhat Karahi in different provinces also attract foodies owing to its palatable taste of lamb fat and minimum use of spices except salt and green chilies. Food lovers are seen chomping on and hogging on lamb meat immersed in finger-licking lamb fat in the Namak Mandi's restaurants.

"What would be more enjoyable other than to eat lamb meat cooked in its own fat on coal at Namak Mandai during present cold weather," said Imtiaz Ahmad Siddiqui (58), who was standing for its turn for a parcel at a local hotel at Namak Mandi here.

"In adolescence, I frequented to Landikotal with family members to eat lamb Karahi that was slow-cooked on medium flame of firewood", he said

buds still remember that flavor but restaurants of Namak Mandi also offer lamb karahi with the same taste that reminisced me of my teenage."

Kachalo Paira is another traditional dish that is eaten widely in provincial metropolises and the province's bazaars. The dish is sold in almost every bazaar of the province and eaten by people due to its own specific savory taste and affordable price.

Kachalo is a kind of calocasia bulbous root that is boiled, peeled and mixed with vinegar, red pepper, lemon juice and served with sauce prepared with tamarind, mint and yogurt. The ancestry of the dish, which is simple, is unknown but it is among favorite among food items of Peshawarites and local Pashtun popu-

"My father started selling Katchalo Paira in Karimpura bazar on a pushcart from 1981 and after him I started serving people in the same locality to earn two times bread for his family," said Muhammad Sulaiman alias

Jani while talking to APP. "Although this traditional food is known to only old dwellers of the province, the younger generation also relish it due to its tangy and spicy taste." He said the species has also made deep inroads in Attock Punjab due to its unique taste and health

"The dish is best to rejuvenate the kitchens of food restaurants.

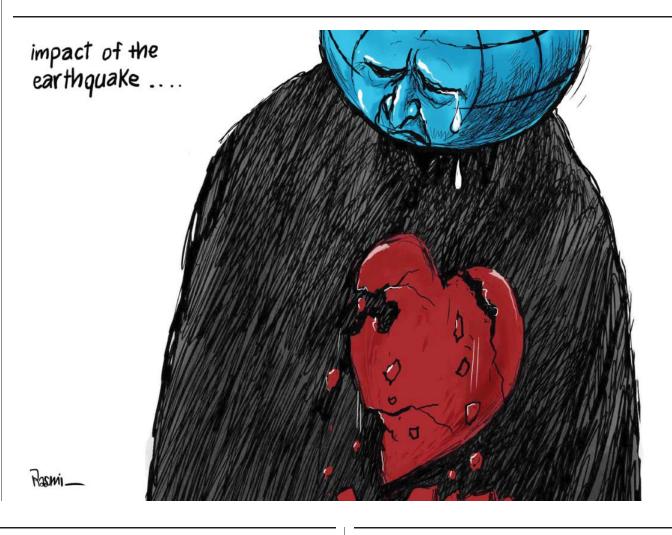
Haji Hazrat Ullah, the owner and maintained that "my taste taste buds of a patient after recuperation from a disease," he said, adding a patient often lost sense of taste after eating medicines during illness and Kachaloo Paira can return his lost sense of taste besides increasing production of digestive juices due to tanginess of flavor induced by spices including tamarind, tinge of vinegar and homemade spices.

Muhammad Muzammil (14), who was eating Kachaloo at the push cart at Karimpura said that he has been eating the dish since childhood and still loves it due to its unique spicy taste.

Chicken penda and traditional sohan halwa (sweet) food of DI Khan also attract foodies and guests in droves, adding "our hospitality program can't complete without chicken penda and later offering sohan halwa to them," said Tariq Marwat, a resident of DI Khan.

Shah Rukh Ali Khan, Director General KP Food Safety and Halal Authority said quality of foods was being monitored in bazaars including Namak Mandi through specialist staff and food testing laboratories to ensure quality food services to consum-

"Our mobile food testing laboratories are equipped with hightech testing equipment with an ability to test quality of over 20 food items on the spot," he said, adding no compromise was being made on hygienic conditions of



Amjad Rasmi

MCB Bank posted highest ever profit

Waseem Khokhar

he Board of Directors of MCB Bank Limited (MCB) in its meeting under the Chairmanship of Mian Mohammad Mansha, onFebruary08, 2023, reviewed the performance of the Bank and approved the financial statements for the year ended December 31, 2022. The Board of Directors has declared final cash dividend of Rs. 6.0 per share i.e.60%, in addition to 140% already paid, bringing the total cash dividend for the year 2022 to 200%.

With strong build up in core earnings, MCB's Profit Before Tax (PBT) for the year ended December 31, 2022, posted an impressive growth of 37.3% to reach a historic high of Rs. 71.4 billion. Retrospective application of tax amendments along with higher tax rates for the current year enacted through Finance Act, 2022 resulted into a 54% average tax rate for the year compared to an average tax rate of 41% for last year. Profit After Tax (PAT) registered a growth of 6.3% and increased from Rs. 30.8 billion to Rs. 32.7 billion; translating into Earning Per Share (EPS) of Rs. 27.63 as compared to EPS of Rs. 26.00 report-

ed in the last year. On the back of strong volumetric growth in current account and favourable yield curve movements, net interest income for the year ended December 31, 2022 increased by 36% over last year. Average current deposits of the Bank registered a highest ever growth of Rs.96.8billion (+18%) in 2022, on the back of strategically focused drive.

Non-markup income registered a growth of 23% and reported a base of Rs. 24.6billion against Rs. 20.1 billion in the last year. Improved transactional volumes, diversification of revenue streams through continuous enrichment of Bank's product suite, investments towards digital transformation and an unrelenting focus on upholding the high service standards supple-

contribution from foreign exchange line, debit cards, trade business and home remittances remained strong during the year.

The Bank continues to manage an efficient operating expense base and manage costs prudently. Despite exceptionally high inflation, impact of currency devaluation and continued investments in human resources, branch network and technological upgradation, operating expenses of the Bank were recorded at Rs. 41.8 billion, growing by 17% over the last year, while the cost to income ratio significantly improved to 37.4%from 42.4% reported in the last year.

Proactive monitoring and recovery efforts led to a net provision reversal of Rs. 2.8 billion in specific provision maintained against non-performing loans (NPLs). Persistent focus on maintaining a robust risk management framework encompassing structured assessment models, effective pre-disbursement evaluation tools and an array of post disbursement monitoring systems has enabled MCB to effectively manage its credit risk. The Non-performing loan (NPL) base of the Bank was reported at Rs. 51.3billion. The Bank has not taken FSV benefit in calculation of specific provision against its NPLs. The coverage and infection ratios of the Bank were reported at 86.17% and 6.43%, respectively.

On the financial position side, the total asset base of the Bank, on an unconsolidated basis, was reported at Rs. 2.1 trillion (+6%). The gross advances of the Bank registered a historic growth of Rs. 162 billion (+25%), above the industry average, to close the year at Rs. 798 billion; improving ADR of the Bank to 58%. The corporate lending book grew by Rs. 161 billion (+36%) whereas the consumer loan portfolio increased by Rs. 4.5 billion (+12%).

On the liabilities side, the deposit base registered a complete transformation with current account growth gaining momentum quarter on quarter. The concentration level of current account improved to 49% on the back of strategic drive. Non-remunerative deposits grew by mented a growth of 14% in fee income. The 21% to close at Rs. 680billion as at December 31,

2022. CASA mix was reported at 95.9% whereas the total deposits of the Bank were reported at Rs. 1.37 trillion.

MCB attracted home remittance inflows of USD 3,434million, during the year with market share improving to 11.6% as an active participant in SBP's cause for improving flow of remittances into the country through banking channels.

In 2022, while successfully completing the 75 years of the banking services to the nation, the Bank, has transformed into a dynamic and innovative organization; overcoming a multitude of challenges along the way with resolve and fortitude. Recognition by the globally coveted Asia Money awards as 'Pakistan's Best Corporate Bank of the Year' in 2022 is a testament to its legacy of posting consistent and exceptional performance for its stakeholders.

While complying with the regulatory capital requirements, the Bank's total Capital Adequacy Ratio (CAR) is 18.84% against the requirement of 11.5% (including capital conservation buffer of 1.50% as reduced under the BPRD Circular Letter No. 12 of 2020). Quality of the capital is evident from Bank's Common Equity Tier-1 (CET1) to total risk weighted assets ratio which comes to 16.32% against the requirement of 6%. Bank's capitalization also resulted in a Leverage Ratio of 6.12% which is well above the regulatory limit of 3.0%. The Bank reported Liquidity Coverage Ratio (LCR) of 204.16% and Net Stable Funding Ratio (NSFR) of 138.10% against requirement of 100%.

Return on Assets and Return on Equity reported at 1.61% and 19.78% respectively, whereas the book value per share was reported at Rs. 144.17. Pakistan Credit Rating Agency re-affirmed

credit ratings of MCB at "AAA / A1+" for long term and short term, respectively, through its notification dated June 23, 2022. The Bank on consolidated basis is operating the

2ndlargest network of more than 1,600 branches in Pakistan and remains one of the prime stocks traded in the Pakistani equity market, with 2ndhighest market capitalization in the industry.

K-FIS 2022 shows that financial inclusion in Pakistan - I

Spokesman Report

arandaaz Pakistan hosted a webinar to share key findings of the Karandaaz Financial Inclusion Survey 2022 (K-FIS), a nationally and provincially representative demand side survey tracking financial inclusion in the country. The primary purpose of the survey is to track access to and demand for financial services especially digital financial services, adoption among undeserved groups and to identify drivers and barriers to adoption. The 2022 edition of the survey focuses on customer's awareness and knowledge of key facets of interoperability in the financial services market. Interoperability allows customers of different financial services providers to interact with each other, for example by making direct payments from the mobile money account of one provider to the mobile money account or a bank account serviced by a separate and competing provider.

Dr. Shamshad Akhtar, Chairperson Karandaaz said,"The latest edition of the K-FIS shows that financial inclusion in Pakistan increased by 9 percentage points between 2020 and 2022. Prior to this edition of the survey, a similar increase in financial inclusion was achieved over 7 years. Mobile money has been a key driver of this push, with registered mobile money users having more than doubled from 9% to 19% of adult Pakistanis. The 2022 edition of the survey also covers, for the first time, sample populations from of ICT, Gilgit Baltistan (GB) and Azad Jammu & Kashmir

(AJK), all of which have financial inclusion rates that are above the national average. But the findings also show significant and chronic gaps regarding the inclusion of women, rural populations and across provinces - where financial inclusion in Punjab, ICT, AJK and GB exceeds 30%, in Balochistan it does not even reach 15%, with the financial inclusion of women being as low as 5%. Inequality in the provision offinancial services means, that pockets of Pakistan's citizenry remain un-serviced. This is nolonger acceptable. The K-FIS therefore, is a step in the right direction".

Mr. Noor Ahmed, Director Agri Finance and Financial Inclusion Department, State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) in his keynote address stated that: "Over the years, there has been significant progress on financial inclusion. Key initiatives such as RAAST have been transformative in furthering the inclusion of the marginalized. Since 2007, microfinance clients have increased from 0.5 million to 8 million and account ownership has increased from 60 million to 150 million with approximately 80 million unique accounts. However, to realize the goals of the NIFS, key challenges and barriers will need to be addressed. While account ownership has expanded, there are a substantial number of inactive accounts. This indicates that accessibility and service providers need to be supplemented with awareness building, behaviour change initiatives and developing financial literacy among clients. Secondly, the gender gap is significant with 61% of women excluded from the formal financial system.

To be Concluded

76 years of Pakistan-Iran diplomatic relations

ISLAMABAD: The Centre for Afghanistan, Middle East and Africa (CAMEA) at the Institute of Strategic Studies, Islamabad (ISSI), in collaboration with the Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran, organized a special event on "76 Years of Pakistan-Iran Diplomatic Relations."

The speakers included: Ambassador Sohail Mahmood, Director General, ISSI; Ms. Amina Khan, Director CAMEA; H.E. Sayed Mohammad Ali Hosseini, Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran to Pakistan: H.E. Mr. Rahim Hayat Qureshi, Ambassador of Pakistan to Iran; Mr. Ehsan Khazaei, Cultural Counselor of the Embassy of Iran in Pakistan; Amb. Riffat Masood, Pakistan's Former Ambassador to Iran; Mr. Hosseini Ebrahim Khani, Senior Fellow, IPIS Tehran; and Ambassador Khalid Mahmood, Chairman, BOG, ISSI. The event also included an exhibition of Iranian artefacts.

Ms. Amina Khan, while dilating on the subject, stated that affinities. The cultural dimen-Pakistan-Iran relations were time-tested and based on bonds of brotherhood, mutual respect, and support for each other in times of difficulty. The Treaty of Friendship signed between the two countries in 1950 was a reflection of this relationship. She added that Pakistan-Iran relations were all-encompassing and that interests of the two tion to coordination on regioncountries converged broadly al and international issues. The



in Afghanistan, fight against terrorism, and relations with China in the context of regional connectivity.

Speaking on the occasion, DG ISSI Amb. Sohail Mahmood stated that while Pakistan-Iran diplomatic relations were 76 years old, the ties between the people of Pakistan and Iran went back centuries, based on immutable bonds of common faith, history and linguistic sion was the most manifest, as could be seen in a strong Persian imprint on Pakistan's civilizational heritage. Pakistan-Iran ties were reinforced by a shared commitment to deepen the relationship in its multiple aspects. The two sides' mutual interests ranged from enhanced bilateral trade to energy coopera-— including on the situation people of Pakistan appreciated

just cause of Kashmir. The two countries also shared a crucial stake in a peaceful and stable Afghanistan as that would help advance to agenda of regional economic integration and connectivity. The two countries also supported Muslim causes such as Palestine and countering Islamophobia. They also cooperated closely in regional and multilateral fora and Iran's membership of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) would enable further expansion of mutual cooperation. In recent years, increased bilateral exchanges had served as a catalyst for enhanced collaboration and important steps were being taken to strengthen the economic relationship. Rapidly transforming global and regional environments posed new challenges such as food and fuel crises as well as exacerbated tensions and polarization. In the wake of all this, it was important that Pakistan-Iran relations continue to grow on a stable and broader basis as this will serve the cause of peace, security and prosperity in the region.

Ambassador Sayed Mohammad Ali Hosseini, while talking about Iran-Pakistan ties, highlighted that bilateral relations have been growing in various fields. He underscored that solidarity between the two fraternal neighbouring countries was based on various commonalities and linkages which paved the way for a stronger relationship. He added that the volume



Photos Ghulam Farid

of trade exchanges between the two countries will reach more than two billion dollars this year. Shedding light on the expansion of cooperation between the two countries, he also identified the energy sector.

Ambassador Rahim Hayat Qureshi, underscored that Pakistan-Iran relations had remained strong throughout history. He mentioned that Iran and Pakistan enjoyed linguistic bonds and the Persian language had a strong influence in South Asia. While talking about the economic ties, he highlighted

of six border markets had been signed. Pakistan and Iran had also opened additional border crossing points and this will help enhance people-to-people contacts and facilitate the border movement, he said.

Cultural Counsellor Khazai. in his remarks, said that Iran and Pakistan have close historical, cultural, religious, lingual and brotherly ties. By virtue of strong cultural affiliations the two countries could be called as 'one homeland, one country'. He further said Iran and Paki-

to boost bilateral relations and cultural cooperation could play a major role in bringing the two nations even closer.

Ambassador Riffat Masood, in her remarks, said that "our neighborhood is important" and in this context, Pakistan and Iran must make efforts towards knowing each other better. She said that we must focus on the present and also recognize that there are interdependencies between Iran and relationship and we must guard Pakistan. Stressing the impor- it as it reflects the aspirations of tance of border trade, she said the people."

that MoUs for the establishment stan both had a lot of potential that we must cooperate in this area further as trade with Iran will bring more dividends to Pakistan.

> Ambassador Khalid Mahmood, in his concluding remarks, said that Iran has been a time-tested friend and the bonds of brotherhood continue to strengthen. It was important to accelerate the pace of the initiatives aimed at expanding economic engagement. He concluded that "this is a precious

Exhibition 'Photographic Images and Matter: Japanese Prints of the 1970s' inaugurated

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The Japan Foundation and the Embassy of Japan in Pakistan in collaboration with the Pakistan National Council of the Arts (PNCA) have showcased an impressive exhibition of "Photographic Images and Matter: Japanese Prints of the 1970s" here at the premises of the National Art Gallery in Islamabad. H.E. Mr. WADA Mitsuhiro, the Ambassador of Japan to Pakistan, inaugurated the exhibition on Wednesday 8th February in the presence of many guests including artists and art students.

The Japan Foundation's new nized travelling exhibition "Photographic Images and Matter: Japanese Prints of the 1970s" which is curated by the curator Kyoji TAKIZAWA focuses on print expressions from the 1970s as seen in the work of 14 artists who helped develop a print movement in the world of Japanese contemporary



bition showcases "The Age of Photographic Images," which focuses on that were shaped by the intentions of the use of photographic images in the matter. The exhibition aims to give a visitors till 19th February.

print medium, and "Images of Autonomous Matter," which focuses on works

deeper understanding of contemporary art trends of the 1970s which were triggered by the print medium. The artworks of 14 eminent Japanese artists were displayed in the exhibition.

Ambassador WADA Mitsuhiro, while speaking on the occasion of inaugural ceremony, said that this exhibition provides a good opportunity to the viewers to take a glimpse of the Japanese prints of the 1970s, an era in which new trend emerged in contemporary Japanese art due to a focus on photographic images and matter. He hoped that the viewer will gain a deeper understanding of contemporary art trends of the 1970s which were trig-

gered by the print medium. The Japan Foundation continuously conducts the "Traveling Exhibitions Program" to introduce Japanese arts and culture to overseas. This exhibition is one of the Exhibitions which is

part of this programme. The exhibition will remain open to

Condolence



Malik Sohail Anjum

LONDON: Fakhr Millat Jafaria, a great religious scholar, Allama Muhammad Sabatin Kazimi of Britain, has said in his condolence statement with broken heart due to the worst disaster caused by the earthquake in Syria and Turkey.

Talking to our senior correspondent, a senior journalist and columnist Malik Sohail Anjum, Allama Sabatin Kazmi further said that we must equally share the of misery with victims of the earthquake in Turkey-Syria, and Lebanon. We pray to Allah for forgiveness of martyrs and assure all kinds of support for the injured. Allama Sahib appealed in his telephonic statement that three days ago, due to severe earthquake massive loss of life and property, tall buildings have become piles of rubble, women and children are lying helpless under the open sky in the extreme cold weather. They need immediate help. He further appealed to the entire Muslim Ummah and other countries in this hour of grief to overcome the discrimination of religion, color and race and help the victims immediately.

Comrade Kim Jong Un makes significant speech at banquet for celebrating KPA birthday

Jong Un, general secretary of the Workers' Party of Korea and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, made a passionate speech at a banquet for celebrating the 75th founding anniversary of the Korean People's Army (KPA) on February 7.

The respected Comrade Kim Jong Un said Comrade generals, commanding officers of the heroic Korean People's Army present in this significant place, Today is the 75th birthday of our army.

At this moment when I recollect the proud history of the People's Army which has written an epic of glorious tradition, brilliant victory and honor in the long course of struggle spanning 27 395 days since the day when its birth was welcomed with cheers, I am haunted by the unforgettable names and images of the service personnel of the preceding generations who devoted themselves to defending the vigorous advance of the ever-victorious Korean revolution and boosting the invincibility and mightiness of our state.

I am also haunted by the images of all the servicepersons of the KPA firmly standing at frontline, border and other posts and socialist construction sites to defend the eternal prosperity of the motherland and the well-being and happiness of the people even this evening and at this moment of glory.

My best wishes and heartfelt thanks also go to all the people and officers' wives who

PYONGYANG: (KCNA) — Kim encouraged our Party's line of truth that the dignity and honor building a powerful army and its defence policy, put forward their president of the State Affairs of beloved husbands and children to national defence and devoted themselves to strengthening the defence capabilities of the

> He further said Comrade generals and the officers and men of the People's Army.

> What kind of force drives the unprecedentedly arduous Korean revolution and what makes our state invincible and how is our ideal and future shaped.

The most veritable answer to this and the fairest appreciation by history are found in the 75-year-long history of our army.

The more we look back on how our revolutionary cause is defended, how our Party's idea and lines are safeguarded and how our national flag has fluttered at the peak of honor, the more we value the noble blood shed by our army officers and men for victory and their endless

In the initial period after its founding, our army clarified its original mission of sharing the same destiny with the Party and started a long bloody journey to remain faithful to it. This has become a fundamental factor in making our history of army building be one that can never be separated from the history of struggle of the Party, the revolution, the country and the people and in enabling the 75-year-long history of our army to be recorded in the grandest way.

A history of righteous strength was made on this land, proving have absolutely supported and through a hard-won victory the

are only given to the strong and the validity of the revolutionary cause is verified only through victory, and independence and self-sufficiency are only guaranteed by self-reliance in defence.

The KPA is the army of the Party, the army of the people, the army of the government and the army of the class which defends and realizes everything the dearest and most urgent to our destiny and future, and the army that bears hardships before anyone else and is ready to make sacrifices. These are the precious names that our People's Army has won at the cost of blood and lives and that should be maintained through centuries and generations.

What we value more than anything else and are fully proud of today is the fact that the baton of the revolutionary army of the Party, the history and tradition of loyalty, has been steadily carried forward.

Even under the harsh circumstances as now, our army is demonstrating its inexhaustible strength as the armed forces of the Workers' Party of Korea and the vanguard of the class. This is from A to Z attributable to the fact that the red soul, the noble mission, the staunch revolutionary spirit and the fighting spirit of death-defying resistance possessed by the first generation of the revolutionary armed forces with arms have remained unchanged even today when its fifth and sixth generations have appeared.

The highest honor of the 75-year-long history of our People's Army lies in the great



succession which continues staunchly and vigorously despite the passage of time and the storms of history.

I am quite sure that though the commanding officers and soldiers of the new generation, comprising up the main force of our revolutionary armed forces, have experienced neither a grim revolutionary war nor a difficult period of the revolution, they inherited the absolute loyalty peculiar to our People's Army and the characteristics of the preceding generations that shed blood and sweat and sacrifice themselves without hesitation, if the revolution calls for it.

Our servicepersons have fought vigorously not only in frontline combat positions where they confront with the enemy directly but also in all parts of the country where

legendary victories and miracles are made, and the red military colors associated with their loyalty and patriotic traditions have been fluttered there.

Whenever I watch our servicepersons fighting like phoenix with the might of will surpassing their mental and physical limitations in the theaters of defending the national rights and the people and those of epoch-making creation, I take off my hat to their feature. As our army takes a noble view

of life that there is only the honor on the road of sharing the same destiny with the Party and carryof our army when the situation of the country is difficult and entrusted it with greater tasks of struggle, and our army has never hesitated to respond to the Party's call.

When I am determined to share the same destiny with our army, feeling the greatest honor of being the supreme commander who leads such a fine army, I feel the greatest delight.

Lots of changes have been made and the appearance of our army has changed beyond recognition for a long period since its and shoulders the heavy burden on the glorious military colors. that no one can dare, remains unchanged.

Its succeeding as well as its pioneering were so great that our army could be able to win the fulfilling call of the times and history as the strongest army in the world.

Kim Jong Un said that our army's gallant, dignified, strong and tough look is a trait peculiar to it grounded in the special pride and strong self-respect that its life is devoted to the greatest sacred cause and its arms serve the most just cause in the world, and the display of an irresistible might unique to our army that comes from the extraordinary sense of responsibility and superhuman will that it can neither be broken nor collapse until it has fulfilled the duty entrusted by the Party

Central Committee. He declared that the DPRK ing out its orders, I have thought has finally cultivated the great and absolute strength, getting over untold pain and suffering for the sake of eternal peace, genuine prosperity and development on this land and for the good of posterity.

He said that the KPA should brave trials as always, holding higher the slogans "Let the People's Army take charge of both national defence and socialist construction!" and "When the Party is determined, we can do anything!"

He went on to say I never doubt that you will be as brave early days, but the look of our as always, dedicating your lives faithful army, which always to the eternal prosperity of the stands firmly in the van of the country and the wellbeing of the revolution, come rain or shine, people, true to the letters written

> Affirming that I will always share life and death, weal and woe with you, I entrust you and our People's Army with the forefront of the revolution.

> I wish all of you good health and hope that you will become commanding officers making selfless and devoted efforts for

the good of our soldiers. I entrust you with our service

members. Let us all redouble efforts and work harder to strengthen and develop our army and to achieve the prosperity and development of our socialist country.

Let us hope, with our hands on our hearts, that the wellbeing of the people and the country's peace will be promoted in proportion to the efforts made by the People's Army.

I'd like to propose a toast to the health of army celebrities here and to the health of the officers and men of the entire army. to the glory of the People's Army and to the eternity of its great

Long Live the Korean People's Army, the ever-victorious hero

Bull & Bears PSX 100-Share

index Fluctuation			
Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index			
Current	Prev. Close		
41,723.32	41,522.76		
Day's High	Day's Low:		
41,846.85	41,404.62		
Index Value	Change		
10,638,855,094	+200.56		
Percentage	Time		
+0 48%	8 Feb, 2023		
1 01 10 70	5: 00 pm		
Europe: FTS	E 100 Index		
Index Value	Change		
7,885.21	+20.46		
Percentage	Time		
+0.26%	8 Feb, 4: 35 pm		
. 0.2070	GMT		
USA: Dow Jones I	ndustrial Average		
Index Value	Change		
33,965.41	-191.28		
Percentage	Time		
1	1		

-0.29%GMT+9 **Open Market Forex Rates**

Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average

-0.56%

Index Value

27,606.46

Percentage

8 Feb, 11: 36 am

GMT-5

Change

-79.01

Time

8 Feb, 3: 15 pm

•		
Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	191.3	193.7
Bahrain Dinar	732.35	740.35
Canadian Dollar	205	207.2
China Yuan	40.72	41.12
Danish Krone	39.92	40.32
Euro	294.7	297.7
Hong Kong Dollar	35.08	35.43
Indian Rupee	3.35	3.46
Japanese Yen	2	2.16
Kuwaiti Dinar	900.32	909.32
Malaysian Ringgit	64.65	65.25
NewZealand \$	173.63	175.63
Norwegians Krone	27.12	27.42
Omani Riyal	715.53	723.53
Qatari Riyal	75.64	76.34
Saudi Riyal	73.2	73.9
Singapore Dollar	208.03	210.03
Swedish Korona	26.1	26.4
Swiss Franc	298.06	300.56
Thai Bhat	8.25	8.4
U.A.E Dirham	75.3	76
UK Pound Sterling	331	334.2
US Dollar	277	280

STZA made top priority by Prime Minister



Commerce Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan - Prime Minister Mian Muhammad Shahbaz Sharif held a crucial meeting today with high-level officials regarding the Special Technology Zones Authority (STZA) and emphasized that the technology sector is now the cornerstone for Pakistan's economic growth. He emphasized that STZA should become a top priority for the government to make Pakistan a global technology destination.

The Prime Minister has constituted a committee, led by the Finance Minister, Ishaq Dar, to submit recommendations within a week. The other members include the Minister of IT and Telecom, the Minister of Law, Chairman BOI, Senator Afnan Ullah, Advisor to PM Mr. Ahad Cheema, Special Assistant to PM Jahanzeb Khan and Chairman CDA. He further directed that relevant field experts should be present on the STZA Board of Governors.

The Prime Minister was briefed about the impressive interest shown by several hundred companies in STZA, with 63% being Pakistani companies and the rest from China, America, Turkey, and other countries. The PM has directed the Authority to implement measures actively and effectively on a priority basis to boost the country's technology sector and materialize the investments to enhance innovation and entrepreneurship across the

Pakistan has a wealth of untapped potential in the technology sector and, with appropriate measures, it can become a major player in the global technology ecosystem. The country is already making significant strides in the field of IT, with a rapidly growing start-up ecosystem and a pool of talented professionals. With the right support from the government, and investment from the private sector, the technology sector in Pakistan can become an engine of growth for the country.

MGI remains largest edible oil importer for the fifth year

Example 2 Tariq Khattak

ISLAMABAD: Mujahid Group of Industries (MGI), a leading industrial conglomerate with interests in edible oil, construction, steel, and other businesses has clinched the title of the country's largest importer of edible oil for the fifth year in a row.

Pakistan has become the third largest importer of cooking oil after China and India, and we feel proud as MGI is playing its positive role in fulfilling the food requirement of Pakistan, said Chairman of the Group Atif Ikram Sheikh while speaking at a function organized to celebrate the continued success.

He said that we have been achieving this milestone because of the efforts of our dedicated team which is honest, loyal, and hardworking.



for providing their best to the company.

He added that, "I am truly amazed at what these team members have achieved through their collective efforts and want to thank them for their service."

Sheikh said that our domestic production is unable to meet the demand therefore Pakistan has to rely heavily on imports to meet the gap between demand and supply which can be bridged if local cultivation of oilseeds is promoted.

One of the biggest food imports for Pakistan has historically been palm oil which is one of the cheapest oils when it comes to cooking food in most countries, he added.

He said that the year 2022 was not a walk in Atif Ikram Sheikh who has also served as Chairman PVMA, VP of FPCCI and President world saw volatility in the market which also

ICCI said that MGI staff deserves appreciation affected Pakistan the solution to which lies in boosting local production, he stressed.

With the start of this year came the Russia-Ukraine war that caused fuel and commodity prices to skyrocket. Fuel prices caused a rise in hipping and other costs, he said.

The business leader said that Palm oil is affected by price movements in related oils as they compete for a share in the global vegetable oils market.

Between 1995 and 2005, global palm oil production doubled. By 2015, it had almost doubled again. The world now produces more than 75 million metric tons of palm oil a year.

For comparison, the world produced roughly three million metric tons of olive oil in 2020. Palm oil and its derivatives are now in as many the park for the producers and consumers as the as half of the packaged products and 70 percent of cosmetics.

Nepalese envoy urges Pakistani businessmen to translate goodwill into economic cooperation

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Nepal, Tapas Adhikari has urged Pakistani business community to translate the goodwill of the two friendly countries into economic cooperation and enhanced interactions.

"Nepal and Pakistan are enjoying excellent bilateral relations based on friendship, mutual trust and cooperation," he said while talking to Chamber President Mohammad Tariq Yousuf and office bearers of the Karachi Chamber of Commerce and Industry, said a news release issued by the Embassy of Nepal in Pakistan.

Nepalese envoy urges Pakistani businessmen to translate goodwill into economic cooperation

He said that the government of Nepal has devised economic policies to attract foreign direct investment that could be useful for Pakistani businesses to promote trade and investment.

The Nepalese envoy said, "As neighboring country, both Nepal and Pakistan have similar cultural and social backgrounds and shared that the Chamber has great role to mobilize the entrepreneurs and busi-

visit Nepal to explore business opportunity. He said that Nepal was a hub of tourism in South Asia and it had an excellent hospitality industry.

He urged Pakistanis to visit Nepal with friends and family for their business, official or family holidays to enjoy Nepali hospitality, food, culture and other tourism activities.

The President of Chamber and members He urged that Pakistani businessmen to appreciated the visit and information on

business opportunities in Nepal.

They expressed their eagerness to work with the Embassy to strengthen economic relations between Nepal and Pakistan.

They assured that they will make a program to visit Nepal to explore business opportunities and to interact with Nepali businesspersons and assured full cooperation of Chamber to the Nepal Embassy in promoting Nepal-Pakistan economic

SECP registers 2,409 new companies in January 2023 **Spokesman Report**

ISLAMABAD: The Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) registered 2,409 new companies in February 2023. The total number of registered companies now stands at 185,173. During the month, a record-breaking 174 companies were registered in a single day. Total capitalization (paid-up capital) with regard to newly incorporated companies for the current month stood at Rs 2.7 billion.

About 57 percent of companies were registered as private limited companies, while 39 percent were registered as single-member companies. About 3 percent were registered as unlisted public companies, not-for-profit associations, trade organizations, and limited liability partnerships (LLPs). Nearly 99.8 percent of the companies were registered online. 101 foreign users were also registered from overseas.

formed, the real estate devel-

sector led all other industries, followed by information technology (334), trading (321), services (250), tourism (99), food and beverage (97), education (86), e-commerce (77), corporate agricultural farming (63), pharmaceutical (51), textile (49), marketing & advertisement (47), engineering (44), healthcare (41), mining & quarrying (40), chemical (39), and transport (35).

There were 108 companies registered in other sectors, including transportation (35), power generation (34), fuel & energy (27), lodging (26), communications (23), cosmetics & toiletries (20), broadcast & telecasting (20), cables (19), electrical goods (18), auto & allied (18), paper & board (17), and arts and culture (17).

The integration of SECP with FBR and other provincial agencies led to the registration of 2,255 firms with FBR for the creation of NTN, 40 companies with EOBI, 41 companies with PESSI/ With 407 companies SESSI, and 30 companies with the excise and revenue opment and construction department.

Regional Tax Ombudsman office

HYDERABAD: Federal Tax Ombudsman Dr, Asif Mehmood Jah addressing at opening ceremony of Regional Tax Ombudsman office, while regional tax ombudsman Farooq Azam Memon, Collector Customs Mumtaz Ali Khoso and other sits on the stage, at local hotel



Economy should be directed towards exports: Mian Zahid Hussain

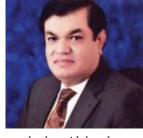
★ Tariq Khattak

ISLAMABAD: Chairman of National Business Group Pakistan, President Pakistan Businessmen and Intellectuals Forum, and All Karachi Industrial Alliance, and former provincial minister Mian Zahid Hussain on Wednesday said Pakistan's economic model has been corrupted since day one.

Its entire focus is on raising living standards through imports, spending more than income and then rewarding the elite with loans and burdening the masses, he said.

Mian Zahid Hussain said that such a defective model is enough to make any rich coun-

Talking to the business community, the veteran busi-



ness leader said that the economy of Pakistan depends on imports which are three times more than our exports.

Our period of growth has never lasted more than two or three years, followed by crisis because this growth is dependent on imports, which increases the wealth of the elite but does not trickle down to the poor masses, he added.

Since 1958, the twenty-three

programs of the IMF and the huge loans obtained from other sources are a clear indication of our negative policies.

Every time country grows by five percent or more, foreign exchange reserves fall by twenty-five to fifty percent as a result of paying for imports, which is proof that this growth is false.

Mian Zahid Hussain said that Ayub Khan's era is considered to be the golden age in terms of economy, in which exports were only 7% of GDP, while loans from INF were taken for three times.

He said that for the last 22 rears, efforts are being made to forcibly run the failed government institutions by taking loans and the losses of the electricity and gas sectors are also being paid with loans.

Country is forced to take new loans at high interest rates to repay the old loans. The IMF's conditions include 100% recovery of electricity and gas bills, settling the circular debt and a mini-budget to reduce deficit.

The business leader noted that productivity of labor in our country is very low and no one has ever paid attention to increase it. Due to negative policies, Pakistan's investment to GDP ratio is negligible compared to the South Asian average of 30%

Development on a sustainable basis in Pakistan like other countries is not possible until the politicians agree to tackle all kinds of losses in economic matters and the direction of the economy is made export rather than import.

Punjab & KPK governors join hands to support trade & industry



Bureau Report

KARACHI: In an astounding development & in an era of political divisions, Mr. Baligh Ur Rehman, Governor Punjab & Haji Ghulam Ali, Governor KPK, have collectively inaugurated the new Lahore Office Complex of FPCCI - which is manifold bigger & better equipped than the old one; and, will be catering to the entire Punjab province, having 62 percent share in country's popula-

Mr. Irfan Iqbal Sheikh, President FPCCI, has apprised that Mr. Baligh Ur Rehman & Haji Ghulam Ali have collectively assured the business community to support their just causes & burning issues like delays in the opening of LCs; lack of incentives for exporters; planned withdrawal of power subsidy to the of exporters & industrialists.

export-oriented industries and unavailability of affordable access to finance for the business community

Haji Ghulam Ali highlighted that the apex body of FPCCI & the business community genuinely needed this building and the milestone was long-overdue by nothing less than 40 years. He also offered to be a bridge between the business community and the federal government. He added that 96 percent of the business community's assets & children are in Pakistan; and, this fact differentiates them from other influential segments of the society

Mr. Baligh Ur Rehman maintained that political instability is making the issues worse for the business community; and, have sought FPCCI's recommendations to ease the difficulties



Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawri, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry presenting insignia to Dr. Nasir Khan, Chief Commissioner RTO Islamabad during his visit to ICCI. Tarig Sadig, Zafar Bakhtawari, Mian Ramzan, Maqsood Tabish, Sanaullah Khan, Khalid Chaudhry are also present.

Islamabad United partners with **Ufone for PSL8**

ISLAMABAD: United, the most successful franchise in HBL PSL history and the winner of the first and third editions of the tournament, is happy to announce that Ufone 4G will be the official telecommunications partner for the franchise for PSL 8.

Regarding the partnership, Islamabad United owner, Ali Naqvi said, "We are pleased to partner with one of the leading telecommunication companies in Pakistan. Ufone is a brand known throughout Pakistan. Every Pakistani has love of cricket in the country, nothing unites the nation as cricket does. Promoting Islamabad United and cricket is an effort to unite the nation and spread joy among the masses. We are thus delighted that Ufone, which connects the nation, will now be an official partner of Islamabad United.

In addition, Group Chief Commercial Officer, PTCL & Ufone, Adnan Anjum stated, "We are thrilled to take our partnership with Islamabad United forward into the latest edition of PSL that not only features the finest quality of cricket but has also emerged as a tremendous brand ambassador of Pakistan globally. We wish Islamabad United the best of luck for the



has closely engaged with Pakistani youth through its sustained support for promotion of sports. The company strongly believes that only a healthy and positively inclined youth can take Pakistan towards progress and development.

Ufone 4G is a Pakistani Cellular major cities of Pakistan along with a

For the past many years, Ufone 4G comprehensive coverage across all major towns, villages, and tehsil headquarters of the country. Customer-centricity has been the hallmark of the company's years of engagement with its users, which is unremittingly professed as, 'Tum Hi Tou Ho!'

Islamabad United is the most successful team of the Pakistan Super League Company with its presence in all the (PSL); winner of the first and third seasons of the HBL PSL. The franchise tion and Environment.

believes in bringing change to Pakistani sports with the introduction of international standards of practice and a commitment to continuous progress.

AAN - Leonine Sports is the proud owner of Islamabad United, the FIRST CHAMPIONS and the most successful team in the Pakistan Super League. AAN-Leonine Sports is focused on enabling sports and creating franchises with a mission to provide: 1) A truly global experience on sports entertainment; 2) A fan base which is loyal, aware and supportive of the sport and the franchise; 3) An aspirational beacon for up and coming players to strive for excellence in cricket for Pakistan in particular and for the world at large; 4) An eco-system for the promotion of sports through close partnerships with the respective sports boards; 5) A truly professionally-run organization with exceptional standards of corporate governance and international best practices; 6) Promotion of Pakistan through sports and involvement of internationally known figures into Pakistan; 7) responsible member on CSR.

The company focuses on the above mission statement by implementing a strategy built around the principle of 4 Es - Excellence, Empowerment, Educa-

Over 150 register for Cholistan Desert Rally



News Desk

BAHAWALPUR: More than 150 racers have registered themselves for the 18th International Cholistan Desert Rally.

The process of registration and technical examination of vehicles was done in Cholistan. Medical check-up of drivers will also be done before the Drivers' conference.

According to the programme schedule, the qualifying round of prepared and stock category vehicles will be held in Cholistan on February 9.

On February 10, the race for the first round of prepared category vehicles on the 225 km track from Kudloosh-Dahar will officially begin. On February 11, the stock category race will be held on the 235 km lengthy track.

On February 12, the final round of the prepared category race comprising 235 kilometers lengthy track will be held.

International dirt bike and truck races will also be organized on the occasion of the Cholistan Desert Rally. The prize distribution ceremony will be held on February 12.

1400 traffic police officials to perform duties during PSL



Bureau Report

MULTAN: The City Traffic Police (CTP) has finalized traffic diversion plan to facilitate masses during the 8th edition of the Pakistan Super League (PSL) starting from February 13 at Multan Cricket Stadium.

According to Chief Traffic Officer (CTO) Huma Naseeb, a total of 1400 traffic police officials would perform duties during the cricket league for public facilitation. She said that 700 officials from the district Multan and 700 from other districts would

She said the best facilities would be provided to CTP officials, adding that accommodation arrangements for officials of other districts would be made at Seetal Mari police station.

Pakistan outplay Kuwait, SL in Asian Fr Squash Team Cship

Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan downed Kuwait and Sri Lanka in the pool matches of the 21st Asian Junior Squash Team Championship in Chennai,

The championship which commenced on Wednesday would conclude on February 12.

A total of 10 teams have been divided into two pools in the championship. Pakistan have been placed in Pool A along with Hong Kong, Korea, Sri Lanka, and Kuwait whereas India, Malaysia, Japan, Singapore, and Taipei are in Pool B.

Pakistan squash team includes Noor Zaman, Hamza Khan, Ashab Irfan, and Anas Ali Shah.

On the 1st day of Pool Matches, the Pakistan team defeated Kuwait in the morning session by 3-0. Noor Zaman (Pak) beat Abdul Rahman Al Hashim (Kuw) 11-6, 11-7, 8-11, 8-11, 11-6 in 32 min, Hamza Khan (Pak) defeated Abdul Rahman Al Maghrabi (Kuw) 11-8, 11-5, 11-5 in 15 min and Ashab Irfan (Pak) beat Abdullah Ali (Kuw) 11-6, 11-7 and 11-4 in 13 min.

In the 2nd Pool match, Pakistan defeated Sri Lanka by 3-0. Noor Zaman beat Thinura Randina 11-6, 11-5, 11-5 in 20 Min; Hamza Khan beat Seniya Jayathilata 11-1, 11-8, 11-6 in 15 Min; and Anas Ali Shah Bukhari beat Sehat Perera 11-6, 11-4, 11-2 in 18 Min. Pakistan would face Korea and Hong Kong on Thursday.

Taimoor eyeing to fight Ex-World Boxing Champion Mahmoud Charr

№ City Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Pakistani boxer and Asian Boxing Federation Heavyweight Champion Taimoor Khan is planning to go in a bout with former World Boxing champion Mahmoud Charr next month in Dubai.

It may be mentioned that Taimoor Khan retained his Asian Boxing Federation Heavyweight Championship title after defeating his Thai counterpart, Aekkaphob Auraiwan, in a highly-anticipated bout in Bangkok last month.

Taimoor knocked out his opponent in the second round to defend his title and extended his overall fight record to seven wins, which now include six knockouts.

"Charr has called to fight me. But I'm not sure at the moment to go for it or not but, hopefully, it will be finalized in the coming days," he told APP.

He was of the view that he would decide about the fight after discussing it with his team. "We will look for the sponsor and days left for the fight then will take the final call," he said.

Taimoor said if he goes for it then, he would "fully prepare for the fight" but if the results don't go in his favour then it won't be disappointing. "It won't matter if I lose the fight because I will be risking fighting a world champion which is an honour," he added.

Speaking about his last Asian Boxing Federation Heavyweight Championship fight, he said he was going through a tough phase prior to the fight as his mother wasn't well. "But thank God my mother is recovering now. My Thai opponent was also undefeated (2-0) prior to the fight but I outplayed him," he said.

FINALISTS lineup confirmed for the ultimate showdown of PTCL Group's E-Sports gaming tournament 'GameKey Arena'

Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: Top 16 squads have advanced to the Grand Finale of the ultimate PUBG MOBILE showdown of PT-CL & Ufone 4G's epic E-Sports gaming tournament, 'GameKey Arena'. The tournament's online qualifiers round featured more than 700 aspiring and professional gamers from across the country with the top 40 teams making it to the Semifinals.

In the second semifinal that took place yesterday, 20 teams from Group B battled for the remaining five spots in the Grand Finale.

Here are the five finalists from Group

- 1. UNBxNoFear
- 2. RedZone Esports 3.52 Esports

4. 3x Esports 5. Rule Breakers



Together with the 5 winners from Group A, the 5 finalists from Group B will join six established PUBG MOBI-

invited to partake in the Grand Finale of GameKey Arena, to complete the final lineup.

The 16 finalist squads will play a total of 15 maps to decide the ultimate PUBG MOBILE champion of the competition. Of the 15 maps, 10 will be played on the 8th and 9th February 2023 online, livestreamed through Ufone 4G's official YouTube Channel https://youtube. com/live/LBUHqR5jxkY?feature=share. while the last leg will be played on the

12th Feb 2023 in Lahore face-to-face. The ongoing PUBG MOBILE competournamentis being hosted on PTCL Group's newly launched gaming platone-window access to a curated selection a stronger root in the country.

LEsquads that have been exclusively of the most popular games to all data users in Pakistan. GameKey Arena is the inaugural tournament on the Game-Key platform, which is set to become an

annual affair here on. The goal behind launching a state-ofthe-art gaming platform and organizing a nationwide gaming tournament is to strengthen the fledgling gaming culture in Pakistan by providing young and ambitious gamers the platform and opportunity to showcase their talent and leverage it for their personal and profes-

sional success and gratification. The response to GameKey Arena tition at the largest E-Sports gaming has been overwhelming both in terms of squad registrations and live stream views, which alludes to the exceptional form 'GameKey' that offers a convenient conduciveness for online gaming to take

Top seed Zohra to clash Manahil in Kashmir Day U19 Girls Squash final

👺 Bureau Report

PESHAWAR: seed Zohra Abdullah to face second seed Manahil Ageel of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa in the final of the ongoing Kashmir Day Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Girls U19 Squash Championship being played here at Qamar Zaman Squash Complex on Wednesday.

Zohra and Manahil Aqeel earlier recorded victories against their respective rivals in the hotly contested semi-finals. In the first semi-final Zohra Abdullah defeated Iqra Shah of Abbottabad in a well contested match stretched to fourth sets, the score was 11-9, 10-12, 12-10 and 13-11. Both Zohra and Iqra Shah played well against each other.

After losing the first set at 11-9, Iqra Shah made a comeback by winning the second set 10-12 before leveling it at 5-5, 6-6, 7-7, 9-9 and 10-all. It was the third set when Zohra Abdullah played an attacking game and marched into victory in the set. Iqra tried hard to level on four occasions at 6-6, 8-8, 9-9 and 10-10.

Both Zohra and Iqra played superb games against each other when they were stretched to 13-11, the set was won by Zohra but it was tied at 5-5, 6-6, 7-7, 9-9, 10-10 and 11-all.



In the second semi-final Manahil Aqeel recorded victory against Naheed Faiz in another thrilling match, the score was 11-9, 11-7 and 12-10. Manahil Ageel faced some resistance at the hands of Naheed Faiz but overall she dominated the proceedings and did not give much time to her rival to strike

In the U17 semi-final, Rania Qazi

and Hifsa Yousaf reached the final tabad defeated Mashal Khan by 3-0, in 11-9 while Hifsa Yousaf defeated Wajeesha Altaf by 3-0 in another one-sided Now Rania Qazi will face Hifsa Yousaf in the U17 final.

In the U13 Maliha Shah and Nimra after registering victories against their Rehman would clash in the final after respective rivals. Rania Qazi of Abbot- defeating their respective rivals in the semi-finals. In the first semi-final Malistraight sets, the score was 11-9, 11-7 and ha Shah defeated Ayesha Qasim by 11-0, 11-1 and 11-1 while Nimra Rehman of Abbottabad beat Omama of Abbottamatch, the score was 11-6, 11-7 and 11-6. bad by 3-0, the score was 11-4, 11-4 and 11-7. The finals of U19, U17 and U13 will be played on Thursday at 3.00 p.m.

Aqib Javed wants Karachi-Lahore face-off in PSL 8 final

₿ Sports Reporter

LAHORE: Qalandars head coach Aqib Javed has expressed his wish to see his team competing against Karachi Kings in the final of the upcoming eighth edition of the Pakistan Super League, starting

from February 13. "That will be the icing on the cake," said Aqib about the supposed Karachi Kings vs Lahore Qalandar final on the ARY News programme PSL Special.

Karachi Kings and Lahore



Qalandars have been enjoying a always attracts a wide viewerhealthy rivalry since the inception ship across the country and a full final back in 2020 when Karachi of the PSL in 2016. The contest house at the stadiums. The two King defeated Qalandars to lift

sides had already met in the PSL

their maiden PSL Trophy. "Without this rivalry and

excitement, the game will be worthless" Aqib expressed. "This (PSL) is a community-based competition where people from each city have deep attachment with their respective teams" he

Talking about the Lahore Qalandars' quest to defend their title in the upcoming season, head coach Aqib said his side had a core group of around nine players which gave them an edge over other competitors.

"We faced severe criticism in the earlier seasons, but we always used to say this there will be no

stopping once we get on winning

"We have a core group of nine players - like Shaheen Afridi, Haris Rauf, Fakhar Zaman and others - who have been with us since the start. This is what gives us an already set combination"

It is pertinent to mention here that PSL season 8 will take place across four venues. The grand ceremony followed by the opening match between defending champions Lahore Qalandars and Multan Sultans will be held in Multan on February 13.

The final will be staged in Lahore's Gaddafi Stadium on