

Daily The Spokesman

RAWALPINDI



Sanjrani felicitates Irani nation, parliamentarians on National Day

Senate Chairman Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani on Saturday felicitated the people of Islamic Republic of Iran, its government and parliamentarians on eve of their National Day. (Report on Page 8)



Murder in Nankana Sahib unconstitutional, un-Islamic, says Ashrafi

PM's Special Representative for Interfaith Harmony and Middle East Hafiz Muhammad Tahir Mehmood Ashrafi on Saturday termed the murder of an accused who desecrated the Holy Quran in Warburton Nankana Sahib unconstitutional and un-Islamic. He said as per media reports, desecrator of the Holy Quran who was under police custody of Warburton, Nankana Sahib, had been killed after attacking the police station. (Report on Page 8)

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Baab-e-Pakistan

LAHORE: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif addresses the groundbreaking ceremony of Walton Road and Inauguration of Baab-e-Pakistan on Saturday.



Photo: Online

Collective efforts, sacrifices, hard work keys to overcome difficulties: PM

Spokesman Report

LAHORE: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Saturday said that no doubt, they were passing through hard times, but it was his firm conviction that with collective efforts, sacrifices and hard work, they would overcome these difficulties.

The prime minister said all segments of the society, including the elite class, would have to come forward and support the nation with generosity, adding that there was no other way to reach to destination except adherence to these qualities.

Addressing a ground breaking ceremony of Bab-e-Pakistan and

the expansion and infrastructure upgradation of Walton Road, the prime minister said that they had once again gathered at the historic place for which millions of migrating Muslims from the sub-continent had offered historic sacrifices, and strived under the great leadership of Quaid-e-Azam, for the creation of a separate homeland.

On their way to the newly created homeland, they came across worst kind of carnage, with thousands of children and women braving the onslaught, he added.

Federal Minister Sardar Ayaz Sadiq, Caretaker Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi, parlia-

mentarians and officials were present during the ceremony.

Referring to the Walton road, the prime minister said it was the place where thousands of migrants from India took refuge and the locals supported them which renewed the precedent of Ansar-e-Madina.

The unique precedent would always be remembered, he added.

He observed that the Muslims migrated to a newly created country to get rid of the foreign rulers and with desire to establish a society in which merit, justice and equality would prevail.

About construction of Bab-e-Pakistan, the prime minister said Nawaz Sharif laid

its foundation stone during 1991 and then in 1997, when the PML-N came to power work on the project was expedited.

He regretted that the project hit snags during 2008 when its contract was awarded during the rule of late Musharraf. About a billion rupees of the nation was buried in its ruins. The contractor was a fraud and lacked experience who wanted to import granite from Italy at a cost of worth Rs900 million, he added.

The prime minister further said that with such a display of callousness, country's billions of rupees were wasted.

He said such cases also raised questions about the performance

of the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) that targeted the innocent people, but did not summon the people involved in such like cases.

"It were the double standards that had caused harm to Pakistan. The rule of 'might is right' must be buried forever by the 220 million people of the country," he said, adding the country could not move ahead on the path of progress and prosperity unless they collectively resist these tendencies.

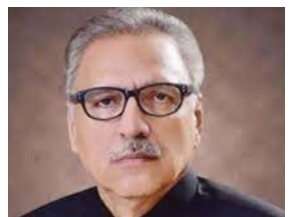
About Bab-e-Pakistan, the prime minister said it should be a place for the young generations and the visitors to get themselves aware of the history of Pakistan.

President calls Senate's golden jubilee session on March 15

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi has called the special commemorative session of the Senate in connection with the golden jubilee of the House on March 15.

The commemorative session will be held at 11 am and will continue till March 17, the



President House said in a statement.

Nation stands with judiciary for protection of constitution: Imran

Bureau Report

LAHORE: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf Chairman Imran Khan said on Saturday that democracy cannot flourish unless there is rule of law, while mentioning a trust-worthy judicial system would safeguard the supremacy of constitution.

Taking to twitter, he added

the nation praised the decision of the Lahore High Court and the people were with the judiciary for the revival of hope in the court system.

Meanwhile, PTI chief also met lawyers group under leadership of President District Bar Association Gujranwala Chaudhry Parvez Abid Haral who formally announced his affiliation with the party.

Nawaz is called whenever country suffers at the hands of the inept, says Maryam

City Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) senior vice president and party chief organiser Maryam Nawaz says the country cannot be put on track in just four months after the devastation caused during the past four years.

Turning her guns towards Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chairman Imran Khan while addressing a workers' convention of the PML-N in Islamabad, she said the former prime minister would be held accountable for all his misconducts.

The PML-N senior vice president said the former prime minister and party supremo Nawaz Sharif was called in whenever the coun-



try was in the grip of incompetent people and thrown out when he [Nawaz Sharif] put the country on track.

She said she suffered the revenge of NAB during the previous government's tenure, adding that the previous government couldn't even build Rawal flyover due to its incompetence and Shehbaz Sharif completed the project.

"The people should compare the governance of PML-N and PTI during the past 10 years in Punjab and KP, respectively," she added.

Spy agencies expose another Indian false flag operation

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's intelligence agencies have exposed the script of yet another false flag operation planned by the Modi regime, which aimed to frame Islamabad for infiltration into the Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK).

According to the script unearthed by security agencies, the false flag operation is planned to be carried out by the Indian agencies on the anniversary of the Pulwama terror attack that took place in February 2019, in which 40 Indian soldiers were killed.

According to the Indian script, the southern districts of India IIOJK - Pulwama, Kulgam, Anantnag, and Shopia - were to be attacked by a suicide bomber.

Under the plan, the Indian authorities were to blame Pakistan and its premier spy agency - ISI - for the attack. Notably, In January 2022, Indian Congress Leader Udit Raj had claimed that "power-hungry" Narendra Modi had planned the Pulwama terror attack.

FIA seeks interior ministry's permission to arrest Shaukat Tarin

ISLAMABAD: (Dunya News) - Federal Investigation Agency had completed its investigation against Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf Senator Shaukat Tarin in his audio leak with Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa finance ministers.

Sources said the FIA had sought the approval of interior ministry to begin legal proceedings against Mr Tarin and eventually his detention.

Read More: My audio conversation was tampered: Shaukat Tarin
As per FIA, Shaukat Tarin's conversation was an effort to derail the deal with the IMF and he wanted to harm the security and national interests of the country.

Earlier, an audio of PTI leader Shaukat Tarin surfaced in which he

allegedly asked Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Finance Ministers to backtrack from IMF commitments in order to pressurize federal government.

In the audio clip, former finance minister was allegedly giving directions to provincial finance minister to derail International Monetary Fund deal.

In alleged audio, Shaukat Tarin said that they need to backtrack from Rs750 billion commitments and tell the lender that the commitment Punjab made was pre-floods and now the province "cannot honor it".

The PTI leader told the finance minister to draft a letter and send it to him for vetting so it could be

sent to the federal government and later on to the IMF representative in Pakistan.

At Tarin's request, Leghari asked whether Pakistan would suffer if Punjab withdraws from the deal.

"Well, frankly isn't the state already suffering because of the way they are treating your chairman [Khan] and everybody else? IMF will definitely ask them: where will you get the money from now?" Tarin responded.

He further said that Centre is sending PTI leadership to jail and filing terrorism case. Tarin said that this could not go on further and the party could not bear being "mistreated" and not respond. "We cannot be blackmailed.

Sheikh Rashid gets bail in Murree case

City Reporter

ISLAMABAD: A court in the federal capital granted post-arrest bail to Awami Muslim League (AML) chief Sheikh Rashid in a case registered by the Murree police over interference in state affairs and resisting his arrested.

The judge approved the bail of former interior minister against surety bonds worth Rs50,000. The close ally of PTI Imran Khan is currently detained at the Adiala Jail on 14-day judicial remand in another case.

Maryam Nawaz to address PML-N convention in Islamabad today: Marriyum

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Marriyum Aurangzeb on Saturday said that the organizational convention of Pakistan Muslim League (Nawaz) would be held here today.

Senior Vice President and Chief Organizer of PML-N Maryam Nawaz would address

the organizational convention, she said in a statement.

Marriyum Aurangzeb said the officials related to the organizational structure of the party would attend the convention.

She said the organizational meeting of the party will also be held in Islamabad tomorrow. The party's organizational structure and performance will be reviewed in the meeting,

Marriyum said who is also the spokesperson of the PML(N).

In the meeting, there would be consultations regarding organizational matters of the party and suggestions would be received in this connection, she said.

Earlier, Maryam Nawaz had visited Bahawalpur Division and Abbottabad and chaired the organizational meetings.

Rana Sanaullah reviews security arrangements



Bureau Report

LAHORE: A meeting led by Federal Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah Khan was held at Punjab Safe Cities Authority (PSCA) here on Saturday to review the security arrangements for foreigners, and measures against terrorism.

During the meeting, the minister was briefed about the anti terrorism measures and security of foreigners across the province.

Secretary Interior Yousaf Naseem Khokhar, Chief Secretary Zahid Akhtar Zaman, National Coordinator NACTA Muhammad Tahir Rai, Inspector General of Police (IGP) Punjab Dr Usman Anwar, JDG Intelli-

gence Bureau Lahore, Home Secretary Punjab, Additional IG CTD and PSCA Managing Director Kamran Khan attended the meeting.

The minister directed to ensure foolproof security arrangements for the people and foreigners.

He said that on the directions of Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif, all possible arrangement should be taken for the security of people, adding that it was among top priorities of the government to ensure safe environment for every person including foreigners.

He said that comprehensive security should be provided to Chinese working on China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) projects.

Sendoff relief goods

LAHORE: Federal Minister for Education, Rana Tanveer Hussain, Federal Minister for Railways Khawaja Saad Rafique and Maulana Amjad Khan sendoff relief goods for Turkiye and Syria from NLC Headquarters.



Photo: APP

Murder in Nankana Sahib unconstitutional, un-Islamic, says Ashrafi

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister's Special Representative for Interfaith Harmony and Middle East Hafiz Muhammad Tahir Mehmood Ashrafi on Saturday termed the murder of an accused who desecrated the Holy Qauran in Warburton Nankana Sahib unconstitutional and un-Islamic.

He, in a video message, said as per media reports, desecrator of the Holy Quran who

was under police custody of Warburton, Nankana Sahib, had been killed after attacking the police station by a group of unruly mob.

Ashrafi who is also the Chairman of Pakistan Ulema Council condemned the brutal incident in the strongest terms and said taking law into one's hand was not acceptable anyway in the presence of certain laws pertaining to the desecration and blasphemy of Islamic sanctities and values to punish the accused in the



country.

He said if someone had committed a crime, it was

individual's discretion power to announce sentence against anyone.

He urged the Punjab government to put culprits involved in this heinous crime behind the bars and proposed that their trials should be conducted in the Anti-Terrorism Court.

He said it was a shameful act in the eyes of Ulema and Mashaykh of all schools of thought as it had brought a bad name for the country in the comity of nations.

Dae'sh still sizeable threat, UN counter-terrorism officials warn UNSC

Spokesman Report

UNITED NATIONS: Despite leadership losses and diminished cash reserves, the extremist group ISIL, or Da'esh, continues to pose a threat to international peace and security, the UN counter-terrorism chief has warned.

In a briefing to the UN Security Council, Under-Secretary-General Vladimir Voronkov underlined the need for concerted global action, when he presented the latest UN report on the terrorist organization.

Focusing on the plight of victims and survivors of terrorism worldwide, Voronkov said that beyond the headlines and behind the numbers, there were numerous people and communities who were affected by the "heinous crimes of Da'esh and other terrorist groups and individuals."

The Da'esh threat remains high and has increased in and around conflict zones where the group and its affiliates are active, he added. Their expansion in central and southern Africa, and the Sahel, remains particularly worrying, the top counterterrorism official said.

"Previous reports raised concerns over an increased risk of attacks in non-con-

flict areas by unaffiliated lone actors and small cells inspired by Da'esh as pandemic-related restrictions eased," he told the 15-member Council.

"While this has not materialized over this reporting period, the level of terrorist activity continues to be a concern to Member States." Da'esh also continues to use the Internet, social media and video games for propaganda and recruitment purposes, along with new and emerging technologies, such as unmanned aerial systems, or drones.

Meanwhile, scores of people affiliated with the extremists, including children, remain in camps and detention facilities in northeast Syria. Voronkov drew attention to the dire situation, warning against the far-reaching consequences and slow pace of repatriations.

He emphasized that the foreign terrorist fighter issue is not exclusive to Iraq and Syria, but a global challenge, with implications that go beyond accountability and prosecution for crimes. Fighters with battlefield experience who are relocated to their homelands, or to third countries, further compound the threat.

"As noted in the report, terrorist attacks committed by such individuals have proven to be particularly lethal

compared to those committed by purely homegrown terrorists," he said.

"There are also instances of some radicalized women associated with Da'esh who reinvent themselves as recruiters, indoctrinating others, and, in particular, children."

Voronkov outlined three recommendations to address the persistent threat posed by Da'esh and its affiliates.

He called for multidimensional approaches, with "more complementarity" between security responses and preventive measures. These strategies must be gender-sensitive and anchored in international law and human rights.

Finally, given the increased threat from conflict zones, he stressed the need to better understand the complex relationship between conflict and terrorism.

Another top UN official, who also briefed ambassadors, underscored the importance of greater global collaboration in defeating the terrorists.

"Only by working multilaterally and cooperatively will we succeed in mounting an effective response to the evolving global terrorist threat," said Weixiong Chen, acting head of CTED, the secretariat for the Council's own Counter-Terrorism Committee (CTC).

NDMA dispatches 16 NLC containers carrying relief items to Turkiye, Syria

City Reporter

ISLAMABAD: The National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) on Saturday dispatched 16 National Logistics Cell (NLC) containers carrying relief goods to quake-hit Turkiye and Syria.

The NDMA spokesperson informed that the relief items were sent on the instructions of the Prime Minister from Lahore.

Jewish settler kills Palestinian in West Bank

News Desk

JERUSALEM: A Jewish settler fatally shot a Palestinian in the occupied West Bank on Saturday, Palestinian officials said.

A number of Jewish settlers carrying pistols and one with a rifle had approached the village of Qrawat Bani Hassan and one fired a shot, killing 27-year-old Mothqal Rayyan, a Palestinian witness told Reuters.

According to the witness, the Israeli military arrived but only protected the settlers.

The Israeli military said its soldiers had been dispatched to the scene after riots erupted between dozens of Palestinians and Israelis. It said the soldiers



had responded with riot dispersal measures and shooting into the air, after which the confrontation had ended.

The military said it was aware of reports that a Palestinian was evacuated to hospital before

soldiers arrived and was killed as a result of a gunshot wound.

Israeli police told Reuters an inquiry had been opened into the events.

Among the areas where Palestinians seek statehood,

the West Bank has seen a spike in violence since Israel intensified raids last year in response to a series of street attacks in its cities.

Also on Saturday, one rocket was fired towards Israel from the Gaza Strip and was intercepted by Israeli aerial defences, the military said. Sirens sounded in Israeli border communities, sending Israelis running to bomb shelters.

Separately, an eight-year-old Israeli was declared dead on Saturday, raising the death toll to three, after a Palestinian driver rammed his car into a group of people at a bus stop on the outskirts of Jerusalem on Friday, Israeli officials said.

Funeral prayers of Army officers martyred in Kohlu IED blast held

City Reporter

RAWALPINDI: The Namz-e-Janaza (funeral prayers) of Major Muhammad Jawad Shaheed and Captain Sagheer Abbas Shaheed were offered at Rawalpindi and Kot Addu respectively.

According to the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR), Chief of General Staff Lieutenant General

Muhammad Saeed, a large number of serving and retired officers, soldiers, relatives and people from different segments of society attended the funerals.

The Shaheeds were laid to rest with full military honour.

Both officers embraced shahadat due to an improvised explosive device (IED) blast during sanitisation operation in Kohlu, Balochistan.

1600 Afghans issued Pakistani visas on bogus Swedish cards

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: A Pakistani mission in Europe has allegedly issued visas to 1,600 Afghans on fake Swedish residence cards, it was learnt on Saturday.

According to sources, 1600 Afghan nationals have been issued visas by the Pakistani mission in Sweden

and Ministry of Foreign Affairs has opened inquiry into the matter.

Meanwhile, all Pakistani missions abroad have been asked to stop issuing visas of any category to Afghan nationals/origin until further orders.

While the Foreign Office has also asked for cancellation of visas granted to Afghans.

Sanjrani felicitates Irani nation, parliamentarians on National Day

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Senate Chairman Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani on Saturday felicitated the people of Islamic Republic of Iran, its government and parliamentarians on eve of their National Day.

In a felicitation message, the chairman further said both countries were enjoying cordial and brotherly relations besides the cooperation in various sectors were delighted and fruitful.

He apprised that Pakistan had

always given importance to the ties with Iran that were based on religious, cultural and historical. "National Day of Islamic Republic of Iran is significance for Pakistan's nation and leadership," he added.

MQM-p postpones Karachi sit-in

Spokesman Report

KARACHI: Muttahida Qaumi Movement-Pakistan (MQM-P) has postponed its Karachi sit-in, which was scheduled for February 12 against 'controversial' local government (LG) polls, 'flawed' delimitations and voter lists.

Addressing a press conference along with Sindh Governor Kamran Tessori, MQM-P Convener Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui announced that his party was postponing the Karachi sit-in until the peace exercises were underway.

"We are always ready to sacrifice our political interests for national security," Khalid Maqbool said, pointing out that the country's stability was associated with the peace and stability of Karachi.

He further said that not a single party denied 'malpractices' in delimitation of constituencies. However, he said, they will not withdraw from

their demands regarding the constituencies. "We will raise the issue again after the naval exercises conclude," he added.

The MQM-P convener noted that party's Rabta Committee would announce the new date of Karachi sit-in after a consultation. "We reserve the right to protest again after the naval exercise," he concluded.

The development came after Sindh Governor Kamran Tessori visited MQM-P Headquarters in Bahadurabad and conveyed Pakistan People's Party (PPP) message.

Speaking during the press conference today, Kamran Tessori said that he had urged the MQM-P leadership to postpone its sit-in as naval exercises were underway in the city.

"MQM had objections to constituencies, which was accepted by PPP," he noted, adding that MQM had never taken any decision against the country's interests.

Preparations afoot to arrest flour mills owners in Punjab

Bureau Report

LAHORE: Preparations have been started to arrest the owners of flour mills in Punjab after Secretary Food on Saturday ordered Deputy Commissioners of province's 36 districts to impose Section 3 of the Maintenance of Public Ordinance starting from Rawalpindi.

On the direction of Secretary Food, District Food Controllers have issued notices to take action against the leadership of Flour Mills Association. District Food Controller Rawalpindi has also sent an application to the Deputy Commissioner for legal action against seven Flour Mills Association officials.

In the application, action has been requested against Khawaja Imran, Tariq Sethi, Samad Qureshi, Qayyum Sethi, Riyazullah Khan.

District Food Controller Rawalpindi said that the flour mill owners announced the strike in the press conference of the association and also provoked others.

Muhammad Khan Bhatti's wife moves court against 'police harassment'

Bureau Report

LAHORE: Wife of Punjab Assembly Secretary Muhammad Khan Bhatti, who was arrested from Sindh, has moved a Lahore sessions court, seeking its intervention against the alleged harassment from police.

According to details, Advocate Sarmad Ghani filed the petition in the court of Additional Sessions, Judge Hasnain Raza, on behalf of Punjab Assembly Secretary's wife.

In the petition, Muhammad Khan Bhatti's spouse claimed that over 20 people in police uniform broke into her house on the night of February 6. "The police officials stole valuable items and harassed the women," the petition stated.

Meanwhile, the session court issued notices to Capital City Police (CCPO) Lahore and SHO Race Course Police Station and sought a reply on February 17.

It is pertinent to mention here that Punjab Assembly Secretary Muhammad Khan Bhatti was arrested from Sindh's Matiari area.

Parliament House commemorating 50 years of unsung heroes of democracy

ISLAMABAD: The Parliament House is going to host a ceremony to commemorate the 50 years of unsung heroes of democracy in the country on Monday.

The ceremony will be attended by prominent political leaders, including Minister for Foreign Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, National Assembly Speaker Raja Parvaiz Ashraf, and Senator Mian Raza Rabbani.

The speaker, in a statement, said, "The unsung heroes of democracy in Pakistan are the backbone of our country's democratic movement. Their sacrifices and tireless efforts have laid the foundation for the democratic system that we enjoy today. We are honoured to pay trib-



ute to these brave individuals and remember their contributions to the nation."

The ceremony will begin with the laying of a floral wreath on the monument of unsung heroes of democracy installed on the lawn of the Parliament House followed by speeches from parliamentarians.

This ceremony will serve as a reminder of the sacrifices made by these individuals and their important role in the establishment and maintenance of democracy in the country. By honouring these unsung heroes, the Parliament aims to inspire future generations to continue their legacy and strive for a better and more equal society.

Cabinet meeting chaired by PM approves Education Policy 2023-2040

Abdul Majeed Tahir

MUZAFFARABAD : The Cabinet meeting chaired by Prime Minister Sardar Tanvir Ilyas Khan at Kashmir House Islamabad here today has approved the proposed Education Policy 2023-2040 for Elementary and Secondary Schools.

As per the policy a public awareness campaign under the slogan "Education compulsory for every child, exemplary school, exemplary society" will be launched all across the state to enroll out-of-school children in schools.

The academic year will start from March and books would be provided free of cost to students up to primary. Teachers training academy will be established to raise the educational standard.

Addressing the extraordinary meeting, the Prime Minister Sardar

Tanvir Ilyas Khan said that the cabinet members should be given a detailed briefing on all its details regarding the education policy.

Stressing the need for improving the curriculum and teaching methods, the PM said that problems of the education sector would be solved under the proposed education policy.

"Azad Jammu and Kashmir has the honor of being the first to introduce a comprehensive policy on education that integrates IT, entrepreneurship, math and scientific and religious studies", he said.

The approval of the education policy, he said, would go a long way to promote quality education in the state. He said "Educated Kashmir" was the vision of his government.

"The government will use all resources to turn this vision into reality", he said.

He said that the national education policy has all-round benefits.

He said that 60 to 70 percent of the problems faced by the Education sector would be solved by the proposed education policy.

Regarding the amendment being introduced in the Mirpur Development Authority Act, the cabinet meeting while postponing the agenda item decided that after looking at the procedure of other authorities a decision will be taken about it later.

Regarding the fund collection for Turkey's quake victims, the cabinet meeting decided that an appeal would be made to the people to deposit funds in the Prime Minister's account.

It was also decided that 5 days' salary of the ministers and all the officers and officials from grade 6 to 22 will be donated to the earthquake victims of

Turkey.

In the meeting, prayers were offered for the people who were martyred in the earthquake in Turkey and Syria.

In the meeting, prayers were also offered for the driver who died in a dumper accident at Arja and condolences were expressed to the bereaved.

The meeting was attended by Senior Minister Khawaja Farooq Ahmed, Government Ministers Sardar Mir Akbar Khan, Abdul Majid Khan, Ch. , Diwan Ali Khan Chaghatai, Chaudhry Muhammad Akbar, Chaudhry Muhammad Akhlaq, Zafar Iqbal Malik, Sardar Faheem Akhtar Rabbani, Sardar Muhammad Hussain Khan, Hafiz Hamid Raza, Chaudhry Muhammad Rafiq Nair, Muhammad Iqbal, Chief Secretary Muhammad Usman Chachar, Secretary Secondary Education Raja Razaq Nadeem and others.

Anjuman Tajran demands Azad Kashmir govt improve internet service

Bureau Report

MUZAFFARABAD: The Central President of Anjuman Tajran Shaukat Nawaz Meer has demanded from the government of Azad Kashmir that people are facing serious problems due to the provision of poor and substandard internet service by communication companies in Azad Kashmir in general and in Muzaffarabad in particular. That with the connivance of PTA in Azad Kashmir, all communication companies Zong, Telenor, Ufone etc. are providing call and internet service under conspiracy despite very expensive package in the name of 4G. He warned that if these communication companies did not take notice of this worrisome situation, we would be right.

As a reward, they will surround the offices of PTA and the mentioned communication companies.

Meanwhile, the former Additional Secretary General of the Muslim League-N Youth Wing, Sharafat Ali Khalji, also expressed a strong reaction against the communication companies, warning them to improve their net service within ten days, otherwise they will be collectively boycotted. PTA and communication companies will be responsible for all the situation.

It should be remembered that for several months in Azad Kashmir, internet companies have been extorting crores of rupees from the people in the name of 4G service and people are protesting against the communication companies.

PHC terminates judge over corruption allegations

News Desk

PESHAWAR : Peshawar High Court on Saturday terminated a District and Sessions judge over allegations of corruption.

PHC judge Syed Asghar Shah issued the orders. Reports said that the accused judge had caused a loss of RS15 million to the national exchequer, out of which the authorities recovered RS12 million.

Judge Shah had issued a show-cause notice to the accused, but he could not furnish a convincing reply which was responded to by his termination under Civil Servants Rules 2011.

MQM-P postpones sit-in against unfulfilled promises of PPP

Bureau Report

KARACHI : Muttahida Qaumi Movement-Pakistan (MQM-P) postponed tomorrow's (Sunday) sit-in at Fawara Chowk in Karachi against unfulfilled promises-grievances include the 'controversial' local government (LG) polls, "flawed" delimitations, and voter lists.- of the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP).

Addressing a presser flanked by Sindh Governor Kamran Tesori, party's convener Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui, said that the international media outlets are in Karachi regarding the ongoing Maritime Exercise AMAN-23, adding that if we hold protests then it will damage the country's repute so, the party has decided to postpone sit-in.

Don't miss: PPP ready to accept MQM-P's demands over LG constituencies

Mr Khalid castigating Sindh government said delimitations were based on malicious intent, adding that the local government elections were unconstitutional and illegal. "Our demand was not to bring our own mayor, our demand was to give rights to Karachi," he added,

ECP wrote the letter to NAB to declare Imran Khan defaulter

Bureau Report

PESHAWAR : The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) on Saturday wrote to the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) to declare Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chairman Imran Khan and others as defaulters as they did not pay the state for using state helicopters.

In the letter, the ECP sought a list of the defaulters, which would be shared with the concerned returning officers (ROs) later.

According to the NAB, two helicopters owned by the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) government had been used illegally to take 1800 trips comprising politicians' 588, government officials' 577, and others' 635. The total amount due for the usage is Rs190.83 million, out of which politicians are liable to pay Rs96.8 million.

The KP government had declared it illegal to use its choppers in 2008, but the constitution was amended later. The PML-N subsequently challenged the amendment to the constitution in the Peshawar High Court.

All possible steps are taken to resolve employees' issues: Mandokhail

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Chairman Special Committee on Affected Employees Prof Dr Qadir Khan Mandokhail on Saturday said all possible measures would be taken to resolve the issues being confronted by the employees working in different government departments.

Addressing meet the press at National Press Club (NPC), Islamabad, the chairman said no pressure would be tolerated in providing basic rights to the employees. "I have been sort-outing the issues of employees promptly for providing them relief."

He said almost 16,000 employees were forcefully terminated from their services during the tenure of previous governments, adding that the managing directors of various organizations were taking hefty amounts in the shape of salaries and other entertainment allowances but they were not focusing on providing the salaries and pensions of poor employees.

Replying to a question, he stressed the need to revamp and make reforms in the judicial system to streamline it to yield desirous results.

On the occasion, President NPC Anwar Raza and General Secretary NPC Raja Khalil Ahmed thanked Dr Mandokhail for visiting and holding a press conference here and also lauded his sincere efforts for resolving employees' issues.

Asad Mehmood terms Madaris 'fortresses of Islam', Pakistan

Correspondent

MULTAN: Federal Minister for Communications and Postal Services Maulana Asad Mahmood said that seminaries (madaris) were the fortresses of Islam and Pakistan.

He was addressing the annual ceremony of Jamia Qasim ul Uloom, held here, on late Friday night to honour the passing out students. "We will protect the Madaris and our dear homeland, Pakistan," the minister said.

Meanwhile, Senator Maulana Abdul Ghafoor Haidari and notables from Madrasah administration, besides a large gathering of students were present.



Solidarity

RAWALPINDI: Students of Government Associate College for Women F- Block Satellite Town are performing tableau in connection with Kashmir Solidarity Day ceremony, in college auditorium in the city.



Photo: Online

Ministry of Human Rights hosts govt officials from Nepal on 'Peer Learning Session'

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Ministry of Human Rights hosted the Mission of the Government of Nepal with the support of the United Nations Development Programme on a peer learning session on National Action Plan on Business and Human Rights.

The session was held to share the experiences of the Ministry of Human Rights, Government of Pakistan while drafting and implementing its National Action Plan on Business and Human Rights (2021 - 2026) (NAP-BHR). The Government of Nepal is in the process of drafting its own National Action Plan on Business and Human Rights; therefore, UNDP Nepal and Pakistan arranged for a peer-learning exercise between the relevant departments of the two governments so the Government of Pakistan could share its takeaways with the Government of Nepal.

The Nepalese Mission comprised senior-level officials from the Minis-

try of Labour, Employment and Social Security; Ministry of Industry, Commerce and Supplies; Ministry of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Office of Prime Minister and Council of Minister; National Human Rights Commission of Nepal and UNDP Nepal.

Opening the session, the Secretary, the Ministry of Human Rights, Mr Ali Raza Bhutta welcomed the Nepalese delegation to Pakistan and stated that such exchanges should be frequent and that South Asian countries have a lot to learn from each other in the context of development, human rights and other policies because of their regional proximity and shared values.

Director General, the Ministry of Human Rights, Mr Muhammad Arshad, stated that the Ministry of Human Rights is dedicated to implementing NAP-BHR. He further stated that the Ministry is focusing on the areas of anti-discrimination, provision of equal opportunity and adherence to human rights due diligence in business-

es for the current year.

During the session, the Director Ministry of Human Rights, Mr Shalbaz Ahmed Khan, gave a comprehensive presentation on the development and implementation of the NAP-BHR and shared key takeaways with the officials. The Government of Nepal also gave a presentation highlighting major areas of the first draft of their action plan detailing thematic and priority areas, issues faced and implementation mechanisms.

The Joint Secretary, Mr Jhukka Prasad Acharya, Ministry of Labour, Employment and Social Security, Government of Nepal stated that he was thankful for the warm welcome extended by the Ministry of Human Rights.

He further stated that the structure of the Inter-Ministerial and Inter-Provincial Steering Committee for implementation of National Action Plan on Business and Human rights and the objective of formalizing the informal sector were two key takeaways from this peer learning visit.

Furthermore, he extended the invitation to the Ministry of Human Rights to attend the 4th UN South Asia Forum on Business and Human Rights which will be held in March 2023 to further learn from each other in the context of BHR.

Closing the session, the Secretary, the Ministry of Human Rights, stated that the Government of Pakistan is willing to extend its support in the form of experiences with the Government of Nepal to develop their Action Plan on Business and Human Rights and expressed well-wishes to the Nepalese delegation in this regard.

National Action Plan on Business and Human Rights (2021 - 2026) Pakistan is a policy document developed by the Ministry of Human Rights. It pertains to 08 priority areas and 69 action points that reinforce following the "Protect-Respect-Remedy" framework of the United Nations Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights to safeguard human rights in the business sector of Pakistan.

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A grand opening ceremony of AMAN-23 exercise

Dr. Murtaza Mughal

The Pakistan-China multinational maritime exercise in Karachi is expected to enhance the participants' interoperability against instabilities and threats in the Indian Ocean region and safeguard vital international sea lines of communication and the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

A grand opening ceremony for the five-day AMAN-23 exercise was held on Friday morning at the Pakistan Navy Dockyard, in front of the PNS Taimur, a Type 054A/P guided missile frigate that China built for Pakistan. Honor guards raised the participating countries' national flags, while balloons and pigeons representing peace were released into the skies.

Under the motto "Together for Peace", this is the eighth edition of the AMAN exercises since 2007. It is divided into two phases: harbor and sea.

The harbor phase involves seminars, operational discus-

sions, and professional demonstrations among other preparations, and the sea phase includes tactical maneuvers, anti-piracy, counter-terrorism, search and rescue, live-fire shooting as well as air defense exercises, and will be followed by an international fleet review.

AMAN is a message of peace and of being together with our friends and partners from all over the world, including China, Vice Admiral Ovais Ahmed Bilgrami, Commander of the Pakistan Fleet, told the Global Times on the sidelines at the opening ceremony. "We want to build mutual capacities and mutual understandings so that we can all work together to ensure peace and security at sea," he said.

"China has been our greatest friend. There's no doubt that whatever the future holds for us at sea, it would not be possible without China. The China and Pakistan friendship is going to prosper further at sea," said Commodore Sohail Ahmed Azmic, Commander of the Auxiliary and Mine Squadron of the Pakistan Navy.

He told the Global Times at the event that the Pakistan



Navy has been operating with the Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA) Navy, and in the future, this trend is going to be enhanced.

The participating vessel from China is the Nanning, a Type 052D guided missile destroyer that is part of the PLA Navy's 43rd escort task force to the Gulf of Aden and waters off Somalia, which set out from a naval port in Zhanjiang, South China's Guangdong Province on January 10.

It is the Nanning's first time participating in such a mission. The domestically developed warship has received an upgraded propulsion system

among many other modifications, the PLA Navy said in a press release at the time.

The Nanning arrived at Karachi on Thursday, and was met with a warm welcome from the host country.

Admiral M Amjad Khan Niazi, Chief of the Naval Staff of the Pakistan Navy, told the Global Times in an exclusive interview prior to the exercise that there are a number of non-traditional threats that prevail in the wider Indian Ocean region such as terrorism, piracy, drug smuggling, and arms trafficking.

The vastness of the oceans makes the maritime arena an

attractive avenue for illegal activities, and no country has the capability to singlehandedly counter these challenges.

The exercise is conducted with the aim of developing synergy between participating naval units to tackle maritime security challenges by enhancing interoperability between regional and extra-regional navies at different levels of technological prowess, he said.

As a maritime nation, Pakistan has substantial stakes in keeping its seas safe and secure, including the operationalization of the CPEC project and the global energy highway, the Global Times learned at the exercise.

The first edition of the Pakistan International Maritime Expo and Conference (PIMEC) was also launched on Friday in Karachi, concurrently with the AMAN-23 exercises.

Initiated by the Pakistan Navy, PIMEC aims to showcase the potential of Pakistan's maritime sector and draw attention to the contribution that the maritime industry can make to the development of the blue economy.

Maqbool Butt's execution was murder of justice

The Chairperson of Peace and Culture Organization, Mushaal Hussein Mullick paid glowing tributes to Shaheed-e-Azam Shaheed Maqbool Ahmed Butt and said that he rekindled the flame of freedom struggle by happily touching the glows, whose execution was the murder of justice.

Speaking as a chief guest at an event to mark the 39th martyrdom anniversary of Muhammad Maqbool But on Saturday, Mushaal said that Maqbool Butt was a versatile personality, who always led from the front to liberate the Kashmiris from the Indian brutal subjugation, said a press release issued here on Saturday.

Maqbool Butt was sent to the gallows on February 11 in 1984 in notorious New Delhi's Tihar Jail for his crime to spearheaded Kashmir freedom movement. She said that martyrs were the real asset of Kashmiris' freedom struggle and Kashmiri people could not forget the sacrifices of their martyrs come what may.

The event was organized by Government Associate College (W) F-Block, which was attended by Principal Mrs Erum Asher, the Co-Chairperson Peace and Culture Organisation Rehana Hussein Mullick and Daughter of Kashmiri Hurriyat Leader, Yasin Malik, Raziya Sultana.

On the occasion, Kashmir tableau were presented to mark Kashmir Martyrdom Day.

Mushaal, wife of jailed Kashmiri Hurriyat leader Muhammad Yasin Malik, said that its was time to remember and pay tribute to Shaheed Maqbool Ahmed Butt, who was an icon of Kashmir resistance movement and sacrificed his life for the noble cause of freedom from Indian yoke.

The Hurriyat leader said that although the fascist Indian government silenced him by sending him to the gallows but failed to silence his ultimate desire—the struggle for the people of Kashmir for the right to self-determination.

She made it clear that the spirit of freedom of Kashmiris can never be suppressed through executions, illegal detentions and other brutal tactics by Indian fascist authorities in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) rather these fascist tendencies further ignite the fire of freedom struggle.

The chairperson said that the martyrs were the symbols of the Kashmiris' freedom struggle against Indian yoke.

Mushaal reiterated that the sacrifices of Kashmiri martyrs would not be allowed to go waste as Kashmiri people were duty-bound to safeguard the martyrs' sacrifices by taking the mission of their martyrs to logical ends at all costs.

The chairperson urged notorious India government to accept the bitter reality and the Kashmiri people and decide their own fate, as the hindutva regime could not achieve the desired results by these brutal tactics for the last seven decades.

Corruption



Rasmi

Amjad Rasmi

The obsession to see the Snowfall

Javed Ullah Raja

Snow falls in most places of the world. Some ones are Chicago, Tallinn, Yosemite, Kashmir, Prague, Lapland and Harbin. Snow falls for a long time in most of these places. While in our country season of snowfall is from November to February. There are some places besides far-reaching mountains in the country where people especially visit these areas. The hilly area of Murree near the capital, Islamabad, which is particularly famous for snowfall. Others the snowfall areas in our country, from Mingora to Kalam and Hindu Kush in Swat, Hunza, Skardu, Ziarat, Malm Jabba, Para Chinar, and Kail. In kail valley, previous days eight to ten feet snowfall reported. There are more places in these areas that no special facilities are available for visiting the places. Therefore, visitors face difficulties. The country's tourist department, PTDC often issued instructions during those seasons to avoid travel to mountainous areas during the snow season. They recommend that the tourists use extra warm clothes, keep the window open for fresh air and keep the ice continuously clean from the vehicle's exit pipe. Tourists are also asked to stand up and turn off the engine and does not use more than ten minute a heater in an hour. It is true that we enjoy seeing the snow to some extent gives delight. While in tourism, it includes various religious, histori-



cal, and archaeological places in addition to the tourism category. As for as tourism is concerned by which we earn a multi profit, as according to a report: 793 billion (Rs 4.0 trillion in 2021 or US \$ 18 billion), which is 2.7% of the total GDP. By 2025, the government has predicted that tourism will benefit the Pakistani economy by 1 trillion (US \$ 4.4 billion).

There are also many other places in our country where snowfall takes place, but due to lack of transportation and facilities, it is difficult to reach it, but still curious gentlemen visit areas. While in this hobby children, elders and young are all involved. Most of these places include Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Gilgit and Baluchistan areas. It is particularly dangerous to go to these places during the snow fall. Because, we do not have any more facilities in these areas. As In the event of snow covered roads, immediately cleansing the snow from the paths, the vehicles to chain problems, and the supply of petrol and food, etc., sometimes causes a lot of discomfort for the visiting families.

In the world where there are such like places. All things are taken care of during

the time. In any tourist destination, immediate assistance is also provided in case of extreme emergency. People in our country are more trending towards Murree near the twin cities. It is common for people to come from remote cities, villages and towns all over. It has been observed that there are difficulties facing people here during the snowfall. It has to manage tourists themselves. There are excessive expensive for the visitors. In addition, especially if anyone needs to have a car to chain, the mafia and the local people are hung by the human being because they often ask for compensation that the intellect is stunned. Last season in the area, the roads were closed due to snowfall and in extreme rush many families spent the night on the roads, and some lost their lives inside the cars. Besides, in such weather, vehicles accidents are also common. The obsession with the snow is more in the students and the young people. It is often heard that the young companions who were trapped from the mountains, slipped and lost their lives. These types of events are often heard from different areas during the season.

Particularly in snowy areas, the logic of watching snow during snow is not understood. On the one hand, we weep for inflation, cold, and gas shortage and on the other hand, we rush to the cold and snow falling areas. It is right to say that whether we enjoy or not but we feel happiness by viral our snaps and videos on the social media in which includes people of all ages in our society.

'Nations; why blame destiny'

Determinism — To lay hands on pre-ordained or to lead towards which is already fated and one's own efforts are least counted is fallacious thought. Man is always the master of his own destiny. There are ample examples in the history; where barbaric, poor, savage like civilizations came out of dark embryonic stages and made steady ways through the ladders of civility and humanism. The only eternal phenomenon in this temporal world is change and progress. To some, it may be only material advancement but to be sane or cognitive domain also experiences the same flux at a constant rhythm.

Curiosity ; desirability to go for unearthing hidden truth or marvel of nature, competitiveness, advancement, arresting the hazards of natural calamities, defeating dogmatism, preaching tolerance and encouraging the culture of truth and bearing criticism, the valour to admit failure, resilience to fight poverty, ignorance, and to work with pragmatism and realism are some of the virtues of those individuals, nations, empires, dynasties who

transformed themselves from decadence towards opulence. They did not lose their potentials in the deep slumber of being born poor ,wretched or thrown by nature in a geography of very tough climatic conditions. Rather they challenged and embraced all these problems with grace by consistent and perseverant struggles .

History is replete with innumerable examples _how some families,nations lost their past grandeur while some poor and backward nations rose to prominence through sheer elements of struggling against apathetic attitude of dogmatism through the instruments of pure reason and scientific approach.

Red Indians — original inhabitants of USA,living in thirteen colonies rose against the great empire of England, regarding which a famous maxim that "sun never set on British empire" was constantly ringing in schools of those eras. Taking the matter further , Chinese and Japanese who were sarcastically called opium eaters with yellow skins challenged the world order. Malaysia ,Taiwan, Singapore, Brazil, Germany, Israel,etc are leading/crossing some very strong nations which testify that they changed their destinies despite undergoing severe shocks of war and colonial wraths. The other way, some great empires like British, French, Portugal,U.S.S.R not to speak of the ancient Greek,Roman,Mughal etc are shadows of the past on the lone basis that they did not maintain their status.

To cut the story short,we are on a safe ground to say that how much strong, wealthy you are born, doubly struggle is required for sustenance and how backward/poor you are, but it is not pre-ordained that you will remain the same as efforts lead towards glorious paths in the darkest streets. Napoleon was very apt to remark "fortune favours the brave".

(The author is Muhammad Bashir working as Associate professor in the department of political science, GPGC Charsadda.)



PM felicitates Iran on National Day

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Saturday extended felicitations on behalf of the Government of Pakistan and its people to the

Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran and Iranian people on the observance of their National Day and the 44th anniversary of the Islamic Revolution. In his felicitation message, the prime minister said Pakistan and Iran enjoyed



strong brotherly relations which had been based upon the shared religious, historic and cultural ties. He expressed his satisfaction that these durable ties were further growing and strengthening with the passage of

time, PM Office Media Wing said in a press release. The prime minister also expressed his good wishes for the continuous progress, prosperity and welfare of the brotherly nation of Iran.

Ambassador Dr. Yousaf Junaid visits Governor Ankara



News Desk

ANKARA: Ambassador of Pakistan to Türkiye Dr. Yousaf Junaid visited Governor Ankara Vasip Sahin at Ankara Governorate today. The purpose of the visit was to convey heartfelt condolences and handover relief items collected by the Pakistani Embassy staff. While expressing Pakistan's solidarity with the brotherly people of Türkiye, Ambassador stated that the entire Pakistani nation is in distress over this catastrophe. Hearts of Pakistanis beat with hearts of Turkish people, he added. Ambassador conveyed good wishes of the Prime Minister of Pakistan for the earthquake affectees and stated that the Prime Minister had established a special fund to ensure timely assistance to Turkish brethren undergoing the most challenging time of their lives. He underscored that the Government of Pakistan as well as Pakistani people stand with Türkiye in this testing time. Ambassador informed the Governor that Pakistan Urban Search and Rescue teams are in Adiyaman, carrying out rescue operation alongside Turkish teams. He assured all out support to Türkiye till normal life returns in the affected areas. Ambassador Dr Yousaf Junaid also paid rich tribute to the Turkish government and the Great Turkish nation, who are dealing with this tragedy with courage and tenacity. He said that, like all previous challenging times, this time also Türkiye will emerge from this natural disaster stronger. Governor Vasip Sahin thanked people and Government of Pakistan for their generous and timely support and said that Pakistan and Türkiye have always stood by each other through thick and thin. Türkiye is stronger with Pakistan, he added.

South Korea court convicts 'comfort women' activist of embezzling donations

News Desk

SEOUL: A South Korean court on Friday convicted a lawmaker who led an activist group for victims of Japanese wartime sexual exploitation of embezzling group funds and fined her nearly \$12,000, while clearing her of other charges. Yoon Mee-hyang was indicted in 2020 on several charges of fraud and embezzlement during her days as head of the group, which advocates for surviving "comfort women"—a Japanese euphemism for those forced to work in its wartime brothels during its 1910-45 colonisation of the Korean peninsula. The Seoul Western District Court said Yoon embezzled at least 17 million won (\$13,500) of group funds raised through donations. "The organisation runs on the money from ordinary people ... but the defendant failed to meet expectations," the court said in its verdict, according to the News1 agency. Yoon was fined 15 million won (\$11,900) but the court acquitted her of other charges including illegally receiving government subsidies and coaxing a victim in failing health to donate her fortune to the group. Magnitude 6.0 quake hits off Indonesia's Talaud islands Yoon, who had apologised for causing controversy but denied the charges, smiled as she left the court. "It proved my innocence on most of the unreasonable charges pressed by the prosecutors," she told reporters, adding she would appeal against her conviction. Prosecutors had called for a five-year jail sentence, which would have forced her to give up her seat in parliament. Calls to the court and the advocacy group known as Jungdaehyup, or the Korean Council for Justice and Remembrance for the Issues of Military Sexual Slavery by Japan, went unanswered. Yoon's case threatened to damage the campaign on behalf of the surviving victims of the Japanese military. The legacy of Japan's colonial rule, especially the issues of sexual exploitation and forced labour, remain highly sensitive in South Korea and have for decades frayed ties with Japan.

Pakistan-born artist 'creates history' in New York court



NEW YORK: For more than a century, the plinths atop a New York courthouse held statues all depicting men. Not anymore, thanks to the work of a Pakistani-American artist. Joining Zoroaster, Confucius, Moses and six other male ancient jurists on the neoclassical building's roof in Manhattan is an eight-foot female sculpture shimmering in gold. Shahzia Sikander, 53, created the work to raise awareness about the low representation of women in public statues in the United States, which tend to honour white men. "Representation matters and women representation (matters) in spaces which have been fundamentally very patriarchal, like law and art," the artist told AFP. "So of course, placing the character on the roof of the courthouse, the context of the courthouse allows a very different conversation to take shape," the 53-year-old added. The building, in Manhattan's Flatiron District, has boasted ten plinths since it opened in the late 19th century. In 1955, a statue of the Prophet Mohammed was removed from one following complaints from Pakistan, Indonesia and Egypt. Several statues were then shifted over one spot — but an empty plinth still remained. Now, Sikander's sculpture occupies the spot where the Byzantine emperor Justinian used to stand. Her statue depicts a feminine figure emerging from a pink lotus flower, her hair braided into spiralling horns. It calls to attention the discrimination women continue to face, "whether it is health and education rights, equal economic opportunities, gender-based violence and race, or class discrimination," Sikander says. "Despite years of women's struggle for legal, socio-economic and political equality, gender bias still continues to create barriers for many women," she wrote in her artist's note about the work. Sikander, who was born in Lahore and moved to the United States 30 years ago, entitled the work "NOW," a nod to recent events that opponents say have dismantled women's rights.

Assistance

LAHORE: NDMA dispatched 16 containers loaded with relief items for quake-hit Türkiye and Syria through NLC Trucks.



Photo: APP

Pakistan dispatches over 200 tons of relief items including winterized blankets to Türkiye

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: In line with Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif's directive, about 200.7 tons of relief assistance including 18 tons of winterized tents had been sent to the quake-affected people of the brotherly country Türkiye. The request for tents was made by the Turkish government to save hundreds of thousands of the

quake-affected people who were bracing the severe cold. So far, different flights of Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) and Pakistan Air Force (PAF) have delivered 200.7 tons of relief goods including winterized blankets to the quake-affected populace of Türkiye. NDMA sends 10th Relief Assistance of 16.5 tonnes consignment to Türkiye. These relief assistance consign-

ments included tents, blankets and other items. Pakistan dispatches over 200 tons of relief items including winterized blankets to Türkiye. Sharing the latest details of the quake, the Turkish health minister informed media that more than 20,213 people had lost their lives in the 10 affected provinces while 80,052 others were injured. A total of 67 survivors were also

rescued from the rubble in the last 24 hours. 1666 aftershocks were recorded so far in the aftermath of two massive tremors that brought unprecedented destruction in Türkiye. According to experts, Türkiye lies on two fault lines. The recent double earthquake was far more intense than anything seen since 1939. The first quake registered a magnitude 7.8, followed by another of 7.5 tremor.

At UN Pakistan calls for reduction in inequality gaps between nations

Spokesman Report

UNITED NATIONS: Pakistan has underscored the need for addressing the multiple crises — including the COVID-19 pandemic, rising conflicts and climate change — that have exacerbated existing inequalities between and within nations. "The worsening inequality has in fact accelerated since the global financial crisis at the end of the first decade of this century," Ambassador Aamir Khan, deputy permanent representative of Pakistan to the United Nations, told the Commission for Social Development — one of the eight functional commissions established by the UN Economic and Social Council since 1946 to advise and assist it in carrying its work. Speaking in the gener-

al debate, the Pakistani envoy said one particular Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) — reduced inequalities — has not only lacked progress but has, in fact, experienced a regression in recent years. The gap between rich and poor, both between and within nations, is growing, despite unprecedented global gains, he said. "The poor are still poor; the rich are much richer." Emphasizing that just 26 people own a full half of the world's wealth, he said the poly-crises triggered by the COVID-19 pandemic, rising geopolitical tensions and climate change have only exacerbated those existing inequalities and vulnerabilities. "It is today the pandemic of inequalities that are playing havoc with people's lives," he



remarked.

While richer nations have injected around \$17 trillion to stimulate their economies, developing countries are struggling to find even a fraction of the \$4.1 trillion they are estimated to require to recover and achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. Calling for more international solidarity, Aamir Khan

emphasized that the developing countries must be provided with the necessary means to recover from the crises and to achieve the SDGs. "I call for food, finance, and fuel solidarity at these difficult times." Aamir Khan outlined Pakistan's employment statistics, noting the government is working to improve job opportuni-

ties for youth by boosting the private sector, creating a robust environment of entrepreneurship, improving exports and improving the access to Internet services. Pakistan is also still reeling from the worst natural disaster in its history, namely unprecedented flooding, he pointed out. Among the suggestion put forward by the Pakistani envoy to enable the developing countries recover economically was for rich countries to fulfill their commitment of the 0.7 percent ODA (official development assistance) target without delay; redistribution of the \$650 billion SDRs and allocation of new SDRs; concessional finance from the multilateral institutions and development banks; and debt relief and restructuring.

Maqbool Butt remembered on 39th martyrdom anniversary

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The people of Jammu and Kashmir are observing today the 39th martyrdom anniversary of Muhammad Maqbool Butt who had lived for a national cause for his people and ended his life by kissing gallows in Tihar Jail on 11 February 1984. Farooq Rehmani, Chairman J&K People's Freedom League and ex-Convenor All Parties Hurriyat Conference AJ&K paid a rich tribute to the struggle of the martyred Freedom fighter of Kashmir. He said that Maqbool Butt first left his home in Kashmir during 1950s, crossed into Pakistan to organise the freedom movement in different ways and came back to the IIOJ&K in the 1960s with a fulfilled mission but was



arrested and imprisoned and later sentenced, but again made his way to enter Azad Jammu and Kashmir, said a press release issued here on Saturday. Once again seeing the conditions of his homeland akin to a political revolution, he made his 2nd attempt in 1976 to sneak into the IIOJ&K, but unfortunately, he was again arrested and kept

in the high-security prison in Tihar Jail, where a good number of Kashmiri resistance leaders are languishing since 1990s or from the beginning of this century. Muhammad Farooq Rehmani said the Indian government made a revengeful decision to send him to the gallows without listening to his defence counsel and the execution was rightly described and condemned by many in the sub-continent, especially by a popular newspaper of Jammu Kashmir Times as a mortal murder. "Today his mortal remains and that of Afzal Guru Shaheed remain buried in the premises of Tihar jail and the people of Kashmir especially the parents and the family members of both of these martyred sons have time and again demanded the internation-

al community to use their influence to hand over the last mortal remains to the concerned families in the IIOJ&K," he said. He further said that the political and economic life of the people of Jammu and Kashmir today had been squeezed and crippled by the racist Modi establishment of India and there was everywhere an atmosphere of fear due to arrests, long imprisonments. He emphasized the UN to invoke its resolutions on Jammu and Kashmir and equally impressed upon other regional and European organizations, especially the Organization of Islamic Cooperation to play their part in resolving the problem of Kashmir to end an environment of fear and political and economic suffocation in the Occupied State of Jammu and Kashmir.

System Constraints Removal Drive continues



News Desk

LAHORE : National Transmission & Despatch Company (NTDC) has successfully augmented the existing 160 MVA, 220/132 kV autotransformer (T1) with a 250 MVA unit at 220 kV Industrial-II Quetta grid station. The said autotransformer was energized today.

This project, a part of the World Bank funded NTMP-I program, has been completed under the System Constraints Removal Program which will see an enhancement in the capacity of Quetta grid station. It will help to meet the increasing load demand of consumers of QESCO.

MD NTDC, Engr Dr. Rana Abdul Jabbar Khan acknowledged the efforts of the engineers of Project Delivery South and the contractor on completion of the project.

K-Electric files generation tariff petition for its power plants

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD : K-Electric has filed tariff petition for its power generation plants with the National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (NEPRA) for the period commencing from July 01, 2023, till their remaining licensed useful lives. The petition has been admitted by the Regulatory Authority for KE's generation segment comprises of six thermal based power plants.

Through this petition, KE has proposed a tariff for remaining life of generation plants with structure in line with IPPs where expenditures are allowed through Fixed and variable O&M. This will help to have visibility and align the tariff structure with CTBCM requirement and industry practice.

Currently, the Regulator has issued a notice for stakeholders' comments on KE's generation tariff petition, and it is expected to conduct a hearing after which the regulator will issue its determination.

Since Privatization, KE has invested over PKR 400 billion across its value chain including PKR 203.9 billion in generation segment. With the help of targeted investments, KE was able to greatly improve reliability, availability, and capacity of its generation fleet. As a result, KE's generation fleet efficiency has increased from 30% in 2005 to nearly 44%. Since FY 2016, KE's generation fleet reliability has increased from 96% to 99.5%, whereas fleet availability has increased from 81% to 91%, generation capacity increased from 1,875 MW to 2,817 MW including addition of 900 MW BQPS-III.

IMF deal: Electricity consumers likely to pay additional Rs17 billion

Commerce Reporter

ISLAMABAD : The power distribution companies has filed an application in the National Electric Power Regulatory Authority seeking permission to collect additional Rs17 billion in electricity consumer bills.

The development comes as the federal governments is scrambling to appease the International Monetary Fund (IMF) by imposing new taxes on public in order to unlock next tranche of loan.

A day earlier, Finance and Revenue Minister Ishaq Dar said taxes worth Rs170 billion would be imposed ahead of the IMF deal. Addressing a presser in the federal capital, Dar said the parleys with the global lender ended "positively".

"Good news is [that] as per their commitment, the team has gone according to their plan. As per their commitment, we have received MEFP. The draft is with us, we will study it and from Monday we will engage in virtual discussion with the fund," he said.

The minister said, the government was committed to fulfill its sovereign commitments and would complete the IMF programme for the second time in the history of the country.

In its application, the power distribution companies said the Rs17 billion would be collected in wake of quarterly adjustment for the period of October-December 2022. If Nepra approves their petition, they would recover Rs6.19 billion in wake of capacity charges and Rs2 billion in wake of line losses. The consumers would also pay for repairing of the power plants. The Nepra would hear the application on Feb 22.

FBR fails to meet sales tax collection target

Bureau Report

LAHORE : Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) failed to meet its six-month (July-Dec) target for sales tax collection according to a report released by the Finance Ministry.

The sales tax collection target for the ongoing fiscal year 2022-23 (FY 2022-23) was fixed at Rs3076 billion with a six-month target of Rs1538 billion. However, the FBR



succeeded in collecting only Rs1272 billion, falling Rs266 billion short of the target. If seen on monthly basis, the target was Rs256 billion but the FBR could maintain a monthly average of Rs212 billion, posing an Rs44 billion loss.

It is pertinent to mention here that the authority had eyed the Rs769 billion mark for three months, but it failed on this front too with the collection of Rs642 billion, thus

falling Rs127 billion low on the target.

If the practice persists on part of the FBR, it could pose the government with an annual loss of Rs532 billion. On top of that, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) has "recommended" increasing the sales tax by 1pc thus taking it to 18pc at maximum.

The government is reviewing the recommendation which could add another Rs180 billion per annum to the national exchequer.

ICCI discusses building Expo Centre and Hospital in Gulberg Green



Tariq Khattak

ISLAMABAD : Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) leading a delegation visited IB Employees Cooperative Housing Society (Gulberg Green) Islamabad and exchanged views on matters of mutual interest with Tariq Mehmood President, Bilal Riaz Burki Joint Secretary and other Office Bearers of the Society.

Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari said that Pakistan is currently facing a foreign exchange crisis due to which the economy is confronted with great challenges and added that the best solution to get out of the current crisis is to boost exports rapidly.

Speaking on the occasion, Tariq Mehmood, President, IB Employees Cooperative Housing Society welcomed the positive suggestions of Ahsan Bakhtawari, President ICCI and said that he

would consider them sympathetically.

Zafar Bakhtawari former President ICCI, Asad Aziz President Jinnah Supermarket, Saif ur Rehman Khan, Sajid Satti, Mudassar Zia, Syed Azhar Shah, Malik Najeeb, Sardar Qaiser Mehmood, Sardar Zahid Rashid, Imtiaz Abbasi, Khalid Chaudhry, Faizan Shahzad, Waqas Khan, Babar Chaudhry, Malik Mohsin Khalid and others were also present on the occasion.

China encourages Pakistani new energy companies for collaboration



Spokesman Report

BEIJING: Haining city has a number of advanced photovoltaic energy storage and other new energy enterprises, looking forward to strengthening technical exchanges and cooperation with Pakistani and other Belt and Road Initiative countries in the field of commerce and new energy.

These views were expressed by Jin Hongxian, Deputy Director of Economic Development Office of Zhouwangmiao, Haining City, Zhejiang province, China in a recent business matchmaking between Haining and Pakistani technology companies.

With a GDP of RMB 119.63 billion in 2021, Haining has forged a new energy emerging manufacturing cluster with an industrial output value of RMB 50 billion above scale. Located in the Yangtze River Delta integrated development core area, Zhouwangmiao is the birthplace of Haining leather, and was once named "China's No. 1 Leather Town" by the Chinese Ministry of Light Industry. The town's economy is guided by electronic information, high-end equipment manufacturing, and biomedicine.

Jin added that in the past 10 years, as the backbone of the emerging manufacturing industry and the traditional foreign trade strong city, Haining's foreign trade partners have gradually expanded from North America, Europe, Japan and South Korea to Thailand, Paki-

stan and other emerging economies such as the Belt and Road countries, and the proportion has been rising year by year. Haining encourages more Pakistani solar and leather companies for win-win cooperation.

It is not a hidden secret that China excels in the solar and photovoltaic industry, contributing more than 50 percent of the world's electricity and photovoltaic power generation, said Sami Iqbal, founder of Nanjing Enfiniti Tech Development Co., Ltd, who is also engaged in solar cell materials research at the School of Materials at Southeast University. He hopes to find companies that understand the demand for solar energy and related equipment manufacturing in developing countries and regions along the Belt and Road.

"Pakistan has enormous advantages and opportunities to develop the photovoltaic industries, including transportation, agriculture, small and medium industry, commercial and public services, etc. We would like to form partnerships with quality PV companies in Haining to enhance the manufacturing and operational maintenance capabilities of the PV industry in Pakistan," added Sami. On the occasion, Yu Linjie, General Manager of Zhejiang Chuanda New Energy Co., Ltd expressed his interest in working with Pakistani PV companies in the investment plan, after sales services and equipment upgrades.

Winter sweet

ISLAMABAD: A vendor is selling jaggery (gurr) on his pushcart in vegetable market at Sector I-II, in Federal Capital.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

NBP's message of Inclusivity, Diversity in the blue economy lauded in PIMEC 2023

News Desk

KARACHI: The National Bank of Pakistan actively participated in the Pakistan International Maritime Exhibition and Conference at Expo Center, Karachi. The NBP team gave a briefing on their message of diversity, inclusivity, and financial prospects for the public and private sectors to support the blue economy in the area. The dignitaries and representatives from international organizations praised NBP for its continued participation and efforts at the occasion.

Dignitaries including Foreign Minister Mr. Bilwal Bhutto Zardari, Minister for Maritime Affairs Mr. Faisal Subzwari, Chief of Naval Staff Mr. Muhammad Amjad Khan Niazi, Secretary to Govt. of Sindh Investment Department, Mr. Syed Mansoor Abbas Rizvi, Assistant Director SBP BSC Ms. Faryal Aslam along with other SBP and Govt officials visited the NBP's stall in Access to Finance Pavilion arranged by Sindh Enterprise Development Fund in Expo



Centre, Karachi and appreciated the efforts.

"Pakistan International Maritime Exhibition and Conference is an opportunity to emphasize the Finance facilities in the prospective markets related to the ocean in this region," stated Mr. Rehmat Ali Hasnie, President (A) NBP, at this time. I commend the Pakistan Navy and the Ministry of Maritimes for holding a three-day conference and internal exhibition that successfully brought together the world's economies.

Meanwhile Ms. Naushaba Shahzad Group Head, Inclusive Development Group, NBP emphasized the need of blue financing.

The largest public sector commercial bank in Pakistan, NBP offers a wide range of products and services to the agricultural, SME and Commercial sectors. The Bank is creating and bolstering value chains connecting producers, processors, exporters, and financial institutions in order to increase market penetration and growth

in the priority areas of the economy. These activities are being led by the Inclusive Development Group (IDG) under NBP, which is concentrating on the financial inclusion of underserved sectors with high commercial potential.

The show featured more than 142 exhibitors, including 120 local businesses and 22 overseas companies. International delegations from Bahrain, China, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Oman, Turkey, United Kingdom, Italy, Germany, United States, Malaysia, and other delegates were also present.

Tamasha brings free live streaming of PSL 2023

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Tamasha, Pakistan's largest home-grown OTT video streaming and entertainment platform, has become the licensed digital broadcaster for the eighth edition of Pakistan Super League (HBL PSL-2023) to live stream all matches of the tournament for free for cricket fans in Pakistan.

Customers of all telcos and smartphone users will be able to watch HD live streaming of PSL-8 matches completely free by downloading the Tamasha app from Google Play Store or Apple App Store as well as on Tamasha's website. Not only can the cricket buffs catch live PSL matches action on Tamasha, but they also will have the opportunity to partake in Jazz Fan Pulse quiz and answer questions during the live stream to win exciting prizes.

Jazz's Chief Digital Officer Aamer Ejaz said, "Tamasha has brought conventionally consumed TV content to the mobile handset and made it



accessible to everyone. With this engagement, Tamasha brings cricket fans digitally closer to the game by embedding PSL-8 in their lifestyle through online streaming."

Recently, millions enjoyed the T20 Cricket World Cup completely ad-free on Tamasha as well as FIFA World Cup Qatar 22. In addition to the PSL-8, Tamasha will also be streaming the complete home season of the Pakistan cricket team till May '23.

In addition to live sports streaming, Tamasha offers a variety of entertainment options including 70+ live TV channels, blockbuster Pakistani movies like London Nahi Jaunga and Jawani Phir Nahi Ani; a wide selection of Hollywood classics like The Dark Knight and Harry Potter, and Web TV shows like FRIENDS, Arrow, and The Vampire Diaries.

'Special feeling' says Sana on T20 World Cup debut against India

A Sports -

ISLAMABAD: As Pakistan Women's team kicks off its ICC Women's T20 World Cup campaign on Sunday, pacer Fatima Sana has expressed her excitement about leading the Green Shirt's bowling attack against the arch-rivals India, that too on her World Cup debut.

"I am very excited to play my first T20I match in the World Cup and lead our bowling attack. Obviously playing against India is a special feeling, but we will take it as a normal game and try to give our best shot in the match. she said in a video shared by the PCB on Saturday.

ICC Emerging Cricketer of the Year 2021 Sana has been a mainstay of the national team's bowling department and will represent Pakistan for the first time in a World Cup.

Bismah Maroof will lead Pakistan in the event for the second time, after captaining the side in the previous edition held in Australia in 2020. She along with opening batter Javeria Khan



will be featuring in their eighth edition of the ICC Women's T20 World Cup.

A positive outcome in Sunday's blockbuster clash against India will give Pakistan women's team perfect momentum for their later matches in Group B and

bolster their chances to qualify for the tournament's semifinal for the very first time.

The World Cup provides veteran all-rounder Nida Dar an opportunity to become the highest wicket-taker in this

format in women's cricket as requires only five more wickets to go past West Indies' Anisa Mohammad's tally of 125 wickets.

"I don't want to take any extra pressure on the record coming my way of becoming the highest wicket-taker in the T20I format. I just love playing this game and I just want to enjoy the moment and give my best for the team," told Dar to PCB Digital.

Talking about the hype of the India-Pakistan contest, Dar said: "(It) is such that it does not require any Sunday, fans will be there to witness the contest any day provided the two sides are playing against each other. It is all about controlling the nerves, it is also exciting to play such matches as people watch you play."

Pakistan squad for the ICC Women's T20 World Cup:

Bismah Maroof (c), Aimen Anwar, Aliya Riaz, Ayesha Naseem, Fatima Sana, Javeria Khan, Muneeba Ali (wk), Nashra Sandhu, Nida Dar, Omaima Sohail, Sadaf Shamas, Sadia Iqbal, Sidra Amin, Sidra Nawaz (wk) and Tuba Hassan

Botha expects Haider Ali to be game changer for Karachi Kings in PSL 8

A Sports -

KARACHI: Karachi Kings head coach Johan Botha has expressed his faith in young batter Haider Ali to become a game-changer for his side in the upcoming Pakistan Super League season 8

Haider, the latest addition to the Karachi Kings' squad, is one of the most promising talents in the PSL and has already proved his mettle in the earlier seasons playing for Peshawar Zalmi.

"I think our biggest player and the player we probably need to get the most out of is [Haider] Ali," he told PCB digital on Saturday.

"When he was with [Peshawar] Zalmi in the first couple of years, he was excellent. I thought this guy could be one of the best T20 players in the world."

Botha disclosed that the Karachi Kings' management was trying to get the most out of the 22-year-old's enormous potential and refine his



abilities"

"Hopefully, we can get the best out of Haider Ali and if he has a really good tournament, we'll be good as a team. He is dangerous as a player and can take the game away from the opposition. The management is looking to get the best out of him," he said

Talking about the Karachi Kings' road map to ace the upcoming PSL edition, Botha argued that the team would first try to gain momentum through home matches.

"We've got to try and start well in Karachi. That is obviously a bit of an advantage, I would say, to play at home. First up, you want to start well at home," he said.

"I suppose the crowds will be full again as the Covid pandemic is over. We have to make the most of starting at home, starting well and get some early momentum. That is what you want to do in a tournament like this. You need to get momentum early."

"I hope that with the international players we've

picked, plus having retained eight local players, we have got a strong enough squad to start well, then keep that momentum and get us into the playoffs. And that will put us two or three games away from winning a tournament."

Moreover, Karachi Kings' head coach claimed that his side had the best experienced T20 players and seasoned power hitters in the squad who could steer the team back on a winning track.

"We have a really experienced squad. We have probably gone for the most experience in this game that I've seen, and we've got to bank on that. We have to hope that those guys perform for us on the big stage and can get this team back to winning ways," he maintained

"We can fire at the top with the bat. In a tournament like this, your top six have to fire, get the runs, and get it quick enough or you are always going to struggle."

Jadeja fined 25 pc of match fee for using ointment in Australia Test



A Sports

DUBAI: Indian spinner Ravindra Jadeja has been fined 25 per cent of his match fee and was also awarded a demerit point by the International Cricket Council (ICC) for applying a soothing cream on his index finger without informing the on-field umpires.

The spinner, who made a sensational return in the first Test against Australia, sparked a controversy when he was spotted rubbing some substance to his finger with a ball in his hand during the opening day's play. His mysterious actions even invited allegations of ball tampering.

International Cricket Council on Saturday penalized Jadeja for using ointment on his finger without the umpire's permission and ruled out any possibility of ball tampering.

"Ravindra Jadeja was found to have breached Article 2.20 of the ICC Code of Conduct for Players and Player Support Personnel, which relates to displaying conduct that is contrary to the spirit of the game," the ICC said on its official website.

"Jadeja admitted the offence and accepted the sanction proposed by Andy Pycroft of the Emirates ICC Elite Panel of Match Referees, so there was no need for a formal hearing."

"In reaching his decision to sanction the player along with the Level 1 sanction he imposed, the Match Referee was satisfied that the cream was applied to the finger purely for medical purposes. The cream was not applied as an artificial substance to the ball and consequently it did not change the condition of the ball, which would have been in breach of clause 41.3 of the ICC playing conditions - Unfair Play - The Match Ball - Changing its Condition," the statement added.

Jadeja took 5-47 in the first innings and went on to earn a player-of-the-match award after hitting 70 with the bat and then adding two more wickets to help India seal a commanding win in the opening Test by an inning and 132 runs.

Women cricket cup, 2023 final match on Kashmir day



Tahir Amin Malik

LAHORE: On the Kashmir day a Women cricket cup, 2023 final match played between Punjab University women cricket team and Lahore Yellow women cricket teams batting first Punjab University women cricket team who were playing under the coaching of Irfanullah they batted first and scored 211 for 6 in 20 overs. Kaifa Mazhar played solid knock with 78, Gul Froza 42, Gul Rukh 38 and Asma Amin 28 were the main feature of the PU innings. From Lahore Yellow Sabiha Mustafa took 2 for 57 and Saiqs Anwar 1 for 39 were the main wicket takers. In reply Lahore Yellow could manage only 119 for 7 in 20 overs. Saba Nazir, 29, Anam Javed 22, and Aroosha Ansar 15 were the main scorers. From PU Khadija Zoib 2 for 26, Rukhsar Mumtaz and Shumaila Allah Dita got one wicket each. Kaifa Mazhar was declared women of the match. The Chief Guests of the ceremony was Consulate General of Sri Lanka Yasin Joyia who distributed the medals among the players and gave the winner trophy to the winner team On this occasion Director Sports Tahir Saleem Womens Wing Punjab University, Zubair Butt, Director Sports Men's wing PU, Dy. Director Sports PU Miss. Hooriya, Mehmood Butt, Kashif Butt, Iftikhar Butt, Dr. Madecha Sharaf Ali and Sponsors of this event Sabir Sadiq the ceo Pak Aims and Imran Javed were also present. This event was organized by Kash Sports Chairman Mehmood Butt, and the tournament played with the collaboration with Punjab University.

Yorkshire Cricket County Deputy Chairman visited Lahore Qalandars office



News Desk

LAHORE: The Yorkshire Cricket County Deputy Chairman Traver Steren visited Lahore Qalandars office where Ceo Lahore Qalandars Atif Rana and COO Sameen Rana met with him and they presented the signing bat of Lahore Qalandars players to Traver Steren. The 3 members contingent will visit the high performance center and will take part in the inauguration ceremony of 8th edition of PSL at Multan and they will watch the opening match between Lahore Qalandars and Multan Sultan on 13th February at Multan.

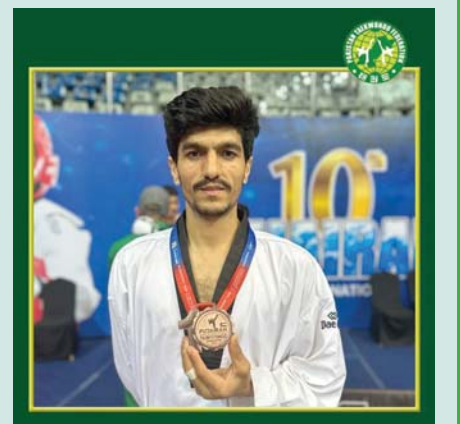
Pakistan got another bronze in UAE

Sports Desk

DUBAI: Paki-

stan got another bronze in UAE of the Fujairah International Taekwondo Championship Pakistan Rangers Punjab Sub Inspector Haroon Khan brightened the name of Pakistan and there were 60 countries took part in the championship. In the international event there were 4th success of Haroon Khan in international Mount Everest Haroon got also bronze medal where 29 countries took part, while in Iran in World Military Games Haroon Khan got bronze medal where 37 countries took part.

Pakistan Taekwondo Federation President Waseem Ahmed Janjua congratulated to Punjab Ranger athlete Haroon Khan after getting bronze medal at UAE Fajera Taekwondo Championship.



Players in action

ISLAMABAD: Players are in action during women volleyball match title "Save Tomorrow and Volleyball show Matches" in Liaquat Gymnasium Sports Complex, in Federal Capital.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

TikTok returns as Official Entertainment Partner for HBL PSL 8

Sports Desk

LAHORE: After a hugely successful HBL PSL 7, having achieved more than 2.5 billion views, TikTok has returned for another year as the Official Entertainment Partner for HBL PSL 8. The world's most loved entertainment platform has partnered with the world's most sought-after T20 league to bring the cricket community in Pakistan together again to engage with the tournament and their favourite cricketers like never before.

During the HBL PSL 8 that will be staged in Multan, Karachi, Rawalpindi and Lahore, the

TikTok community will get the opportunity to engage with and generate content on the platform that now has more than one billion people across the globe. The month-long (34-match) festival of cricket will begin at the picturesque Multan Cricket Stadium on Monday, 13 February, and end at the iconic Gaddafi Stadium, Lahore, with the 19 March final.

The two-season long partnership between the PCB and TikTok—now in its second year—has allowed fans to celebrate the tournament's unforgettable moments together on the platform. With everything from pre

and post match content and highlights, to cricket-related challenges, TikTok has become a home for the spirit and passion of the HBL PSL fan base that has been an integral reason for the league's success and growth over the course of the last seven seasons.

This partnership continues to cement TikTok's position as the perfect platform for cricket fandom in Pakistan, with the last collaboration with the HBL PSL 7 racking up an incredible 2.5 billion views and 2.3 million video creations on the platform, using the hashtag #KhelegaPakistan. This is proof that Paki-

stan fans love cricket content on the platform, and create great content while also participating in fun-filled challenges. This year's partnership promises to be even bigger and better as the platform gears up for an exciting month of thrilling content under the hashtags #HoJaZabaati and #SabSitarayHumaray.

Saif Mujahid, Head of Content Operations and Marketing, Pakistan at TikTok said: "As the official Entertainment Partner of the HBL PSL 8, we are excited to bring the spirit and passion of this great tournament to our TikTok community for another season. TikTok has become



a vibrant hub of sports content in the last two years. It nurtures incredible, never-before-seen sporting content, while enabling creators to relive and remix some

of the best moments in sports. "Cricket is the most popular sport in Pakistan and we are happy to have partnered with cricket's most celebrated event in

the country. We look forward to TikTok fast becoming the home of fandom for not just cricket but other sports in Pakistan as well."

Chairman PCB Najam Sethi said: "We're happy to have TikTok on board as our official Entertainment Partner for a second year running. Following the success of last year's collaboration, this year this partnership will help reach an even larger audience and engage more authentically with a very interactive and diverse online community that has backed the league from the onset, helping it become one of the most popular and sought after T20 leagues in the world."