



Bilawal visits Syrian embassy to convey condolence over quake-caused losses

Minister for Foreign Affairs Bilawal Bhutto Zardari on Tuesday visited the Syrian embassy here and conveyed condolences to the Syrian envoy over the loss of life and property caused by the earthquake. (Report on Page 8)



Elections should be held as per Constitution: Sindh Info Minister

Sindh Information Minister Sharjeel Inam Memon said on Tuesday that general elections in the country should be held according to the Constitution and law of the land and not on the will and whims of a single party. The minister, in a statement issued here in reaction to a press conference of PTI general secretary Asad Umar and other leaders, said that Imran Khan and PTI have considered politics, Constitution and law as a game.

Simultaneously published from Islamabad, Lahore and Multan

AMAN Exercise 2023

KARACHI: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif along with other civil and military leaders responding to the gestures of respect paid by the passing ships and aircrafts at the time of witnessing International Fleet Review (IFR) during Pak Navy's Multinational AMAN Exercise 2023 in the Arabian Sea on Tuesday.



Photo: PID

AMAN-23 Exercise to pave way for more peaceful, secure region: PM

Spokesman Report

KARACHI: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday said that Pakistan Navy's multinational AMAN-23 Exercise would pave the way to make the region more peaceful and secure with combined efforts by all stakeholders.

The prime minister who was chief guest at the culmination ceremony of the Exercise held in the North Arabian Sea, lauded Pakistan Navy for successfully hosting Exercise AMAN-23 for promoting peace and security in the region.

He thanked the participating regional and extra-regional navies for displaying their commitment to collaborative maritime security and joining hands for peaceful co-existence.

The culmination ceremony marked a powerful conduct of International Fleet Review (IFR) followed by spectacular forming up of AMAN Formation comprising Pakistan Navy and foreign naval ships, accord-



ing to a press release.

Upon arrival onboard Pakistan Navy Ship MOAWIN, the prime minister was received by Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Muhammad Amjad Khan Niazi.

Minister for Federal Education and Professional Training Rana Tanveer Hussain, SAPM

Syed Fahad Hussain, governor and chief minister of Sindh, Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee, Chief of Army Staff and Chief of Air Staff were also present.

Naval Chief Admiral Muhammad Amjad Khan Niazi receiving Prime Minister Muham-

mad Shehbaz Sharif onboard PNS MOAWIN to witness International Fleet Review (IFR) of AMAN Exercise 2023 in the Arabian Sea on 14 February 2023

In addition, the ambassadors, high commissioners, senior military officers, defence and naval attaches of various countries also witnessed the fleet review.

Prime Minister Shehbaz observed various naval operational manoeuvres and drills conducted during the IFR.

The Fleet Review also featured an impressive fly past by Pakistan Navy, Pakistan Air Force and participating foreign aircraft followed by Man & Cheership by participating ships.

The mega exercise culminated with the participating ships forming up in traditional AMAN Formation to signify collective resolve 'Together for Peace'.

The Chief of the Naval Staff thanked the prime minister for attending the culmination ceremony and assured that Pakistan Navy would continue to play a dynamic role in enhancing

regional maritime security individually and in collaboration with partner navies.

The naval chief also highlighted that successful conduct of PIMEC 23 held in tandem with Multinational Exercise Aman-23 was a manifestation of Pakistan Navy's resolve to promote maritime potential of Pakistan.

During the exhibition, around 20 MoUs, one joint venture and one sale/purchase agreement of export of iron ore were signed.

Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif along with other civil and military leaders responding to the gestures of respect paid by the passing ships and aircrafts at the time of witnessing International Fleet Review (IFR) during Pak Navy's Multinational AMAN Exercise 2023 in the Arabian Sea on 14 February 2023

During the Multinational Maritime Exercise AMAN 2023, 50 countries participated with their Naval warships, aircraft, Special Operation Forces and a large number of observers.

Pakistan, Ivory Coast reiterate to enhance bilateral cooperation

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and Ivory Coast (Cote D'Ivoire) on Tuesday reiterated the resolve to promote bilateral cooperation in the fields of economy, trade, and culture.

Both sides emphasized the need to encourage exchanges at high levels to boost bilateral relations. This was discussed during a meeting of the visiting Parliamentary delegation of Ivory Coast, led by the President of the National Assembly of Ivory Coast Adama Bictogo that called on President Dr Arif Alvi at the Aiwan-e-Sadr, President Secretariat Press Wing said in a press release.

Speaker of the National Assembly, Raja Pervez Ashraf, was also present on the occasion. Welcoming the delegation, the president said that Pakistan considered Ivory Coast an important country and wanted to promote ties with African countries under its "Engage Africa" policy.

He observed that both countries enjoyed good relations in various fields and needed to help each other in the development process. The president said that both countries had great prospects for promoting political and economic cooperation, and urged the need for the businessmen of Ivory Coast to visit and invest in Pakistan.

He expressed satisfaction over the current level of bilateral ties as both countries had unanimity of views on different issues and supported each other at various international fora. The president said that Pakistan played an important part in UN Peacekeeping operations in Ivory Coast under UNOCI from 2004 to 2017, adding that Pakistan had always supported international efforts for the stability and development of Ivory Coast.

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Cabinet approves Finance Supplementary Bill 2023

Commerce Reporter

ISLAMABAD: The federal cabinet on Tuesday approved the Finance Supplementary Bill 2023 providing for a 1% increase in general sales tax and additional taxes on luxury items as part of the reforms related to the IMF's Ninth Review.

The supplementary bill was passed in a cabinet meeting chaired by PM Shehbaz Sharif who gave the directives not to tax any daily use items which could affect the poor or middle class. During the briefing given to the prime minister, it was told that under the reforms, luxury items would be taxed.

The PM said the govt was making maximum efforts to put the minimum possible burden on the poor people; however, he called for taking necessary measures to tax luxury goods.

Imran Khan 'super corrupt', says Marriyum

City Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Information and Broadcasting Marriyum Aurangzeb said on Tuesday that if General (Retd) Bajwa was a "super king", Imran Khan was a "super corrupt" person who filed false cases through threats and pressure tactics against the then-opposition leaders in front of "selected judges".

Addressing a press conference here she said, "Not a single evidence has been presented against Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif in any court inside and outside the country to prove the allegation of corruption.

The then opposition leadership appeared in every court and never made any excuse like Imran Khan, wearing a plaster

on the leg."

She said that the leadership of the Pakistan Muslim League (Nawaz) including Nawaz Sharif, and Shehbaz Sharif become victorious and Imran Khan got "exposed every day".

She said the political victimization of Nawaz Sharif and Shehbaz Sharif by Imran Khan damaged the country.

The minister said that "Imran Khan had destroyed the economy, and foreign policy and deprived the youth of employment and pushed the country into a storm of inflation".

She asked the Supreme Court of Pakistan to "summon Imran Khan in the fake narrative of cypher and foreign conspiracy against his government as this was a national and public interest issue at present".

She said that during Imran Khan's rule, baseless cases were filed against Shehbaz Sharif. The minister said that Shahzad Akbar the head of the Asset Recovery Unit and his team were hired for filing of false cases against Shehbaz Sharif and Imran's other political opponents.

"Shahzad Akbar was installed illegally only to make false cases against Shehbaz Sharif and other political opponents," the minister said.

The minister stated that Shahzad Akbar had no work except press conferences daily. She said he used presentations and graphs to provide so-called proof alleging money laundering against political opponents.

She said that false witnesses were also made to justify false

Fawad berates govt for restoring officers involved in May 25 violence

Bureau Report

LAHORE: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leader and former federal minister Fawad Chaudhry said on Tuesday that the officers involved in violence on party supporters during May 25 long march have been again restored to their positions.

Talking to media in Lahore on Tuesday, he said that a constitutional crisis in the country has emerged and on the other hand, Maryam Nawaz and Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Sikander Sultan Raja are running a campaign against the judiciary. It seems like Maryam Nawaz is heading this campaign, he said.

IAEA Chief to arrive in Pakistan today

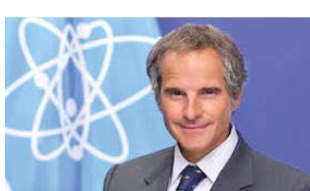
City Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Rafael Mariano Grossi, director general (DG) of International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) will visit Pakistan from 15 - 16 February 2023.

According to a statement issued by Foreign Officer (FO), IAEA chief - during his two-day visit - will hold high-level

meetings and undertake visits to different institutions employing nuclear technology in the fields of health, agriculture, industry and power generation.

The visit will provide an opportunity for Pakistan and the Agency to explore



avenues for further strengthening their ongoing cooperation in the area of peaceful applications of nuclear technology for the socio-economic development of the country, the statement added.

Pakistan is a founding Member of the

Agency since 1957 and enjoys longstanding and mutually beneficial collaboration with the IAEA.

Last year, a group of UN Disarmament Fellows comprising officers from 24 countries, visited Pakistan from October 8 to 10 as part of their international study tour under the auspices of the UN Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA).

Haya Day

KARACHI: Students of Islami Jamiat Talaba (IJT) hold a banner to celebrate Haya Day during a protest against the celebrations of Valentine's Day at Jamia Karachi, in Provincial Capital.



Photo: Online

Pakistan's 20-member rescue & medical team leaves for assistance to quake-hit Syria

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: "As part of relief aid for quake-hit Syria, the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) coordinated and sent skilled and professional rescue and medical teams for assistance in relief efforts in earthquake affected Syria on Monday.

Federal Minister for SAFRON Senator Muhammad Talha Mahmood and SAPM Hamid Hameed bid farewell to teams at Islamabad International Airport, a news release said.

The NDMA also dispatched



relief items along with teams including 131 winterized family size tents and 3,966 Kilogrammes of essential medicines for quake affectees through special Chartered Flight of PIA Boeing 777 to Damascus, Syria.

The minister and SAPM assured that Pakistan would continue assisting the quake-affected brothers and sisters of Turkiye and Syria, and NDMA would send more relief consignments to both countries.

They said that Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif had directed the NDMA to purchase the required items keeping in view the needs of the quake victims. They highlighted that Pakistan was not only utilising the air bridge

but also ensuring the supply of relief assistance through land and sea routes.

The NDMA has also dispatched a consignment, consisting of 90 winterized tents for Turkiye through PIA from Lahore Airport.

CPJ slams Indian authorities for harassing BBC journalists after critical documentary

News Desk

NEW YORK : The Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ), a U.S.-based independent watchdog body, on Tuesday called on Indian authorities to stop harassing journalists after tax officials raided BBC offices in New Delhi and Mumbai in what was seen as retaliation against the British broadcaster's recent documentary critical of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

"Raiding the BBC's India offices in the wake of a documentary criticizing Prime Minister Narendra Modi smacks of intimidation," Beh Lih Yi, CPJ's Asia programme coordinator, said in a statement.

"Indian authorities have used tax investigations as a pretext to target critical news outlets before, and must cease harassing BBC employees immediately, in line with the values of freedom that should be espoused in the world's largest democracy," she added.

Officials from the Income Tax Department sealed the offices as part of an investigation into alleged international taxation irregularities, according to the BBC. Tax officials told Indian news media that they were checking account books and that the raids "are not searches." Multi-

ple reports citing unnamed employees said authorities seized employees' laptops and mobile phones, CJP said.

The BBC is "fully cooperating" and hopes to "have this situation resolved as soon as possible," BBC said on Twitter.

The Indian government ordered YouTube and Twitter to take down links sharing the first episode of the two-part BBC documentary investigating Modi's alleged role in 2002 riots in Gujarat.

Indian tax authorities raided news outlets Newsland and Newslick

in 2021 following critical coverage of government policies and Modi's supporters on the Hindu right wing.

According to the documentary, Modi ordered police to turn a blind eye to sectarian riots in Gujarat state, where he was the chief minister at the time.

The violence left at least 1,000 people dead, most of them Muslims. India's government blocked videos and tweets sharing links to the documentary using emergency powers under its information technology laws.

Indian government adviser Kanchan Gupta had slammed the documentary as "hostile propaganda and anti-India garbage".

CPJ

LHC disposes of petition after Sheikh Rashid's Lal Haveli office desealed

Staff Reporter

RAWALPIDI : The Lahore High Court's (LHC) Rawalpindi bench on Tuesday disposed of a petition against the sealing of the office of Awami Muslim League (AML) chief Sheikh Rashid Ahmed.

The petition, which was filed by Mr Ahmed's sister Abida Shamim, was whopped up by Justice Waqas Rauf Mirza after the Evacuee Trust Property Board desealed the office.

Ms Shamim approached the LHC through her counsel Sardar Abdul Razaq after the department kept the office sealed despite an order from a court. The petition termed the move illegal, adding that the action was based on mala fide intention.

The lawyer said a deputy administrator desealed the office in an overnight move after a petition was filed in the high court.

CTD foils attack, kills seven terrorists in N Waziristan crossfire

Correspondent

MIRANSHAH: The Counter-Terrorism Department (CTD) on Tuesday foiled terrorist attack and claimed to kill seven of them in crossfire in North Waziristan.

As per details, the terrorists attacked CTD team in North Waziristan, when they were moving suspected terrorists to Bannu. Security sources said that the attack took place last night at Mir Ali Bypass.

In the crossfire with the security forces, three suspects in the custody and four terrorists of the banned outfit, Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) were shot dead, while 5 to 6 terrorists managed to flee the scene by taking advantage of darkness, the sources said.

Security sources said that the slain terrorists were identified as Irshadullah, Abdul Rehman, Mehredin, the dead outlaws were



wanted by the CTD in several serious terrorism cases.

According to the sources, the terrorists ambushed the operation team, the terrorists attacked to rescue their colleagues, on this occasion the security forces' support party also reached the spot.

The terrorists were involved in the target killing of Constable Iftikhar in the grenade attack on the Cantt police station. A search and clearance operation has been started to arrest the fleeing terrorists.

French ambassador to Pakistan meets SAPM Jawad Sohrab Malik

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: French Ambassador Nicolas Galey called on Special Assistant to Prime Minister (SAPM) Jawad Sohrab Malik here on Tuesday.

Malik in his welcome remarks said excellent friendly relations existed between Pakistan and France. He thanked the ambassador for the assistance in the form of putting together an extraordinary operation to provide emergency relief to the people of Pakistan in the aftermath of the catastrophic floods in 2022.

He highlighted the significance of his country's support for Pakistan's GSP+ status with the EU which gives developing countries a special incentive to pursue sustainable development and good governance.

The SAPM stressed that the two sides needed to further build understandings reached between the two countries during the 14th Round of Pakistan-France Bilateral Political Consultations held in Paris on February 10, 2023.

Bilawal visits Syrian embassy to convey condolence over quake-caused losses



Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD : Minister for Foreign Affairs Bilawal Bhutto Zardari on Tuesday visited the Syrian embassy here and conveyed condolences to the Syrian envoy over the loss of life and property caused by the earthquake.

The foreign minister also penned

his condolatory remarks in the guests' book placed at the embassy.

Bilawal visits Syrian embassy to convey condolence over quake-caused losses

Foreign Minister Bilawal assured the Syrian ambassador that the government and people of Pakistan stood by the Syrian people in that hour of the ordeal.

Punjab polls date not fixed as Governor to approach LHC for clarification

City Reporter

ISLAMABAD : The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) on Tuesday did not announce the Punjab Assembly's polls date as its representatives meeting with Punjab Governor Muhammad Baligh Ur Rehman regarding the implementation of the order of the Lahore High Court remained inconclusive.

According to ECP press release, the LHC had instructed the ECP to announce the elections schedule in consultation with Punjab Governor Muhammad Baligh Ur Rehman.

Chairing a consultative meeting with Election Commission of Pakistan's (ECP) representatives at Governor House on Tuesday, the governor was of the opinion that he

had not dissolved the assembly so he was not authorised to announce the polls date.

The governor said that he did not want take any extra-legal and constitutional step. The Lahore High Court's decision requires an explanation, for which they were taking the legal route.

The meeting concluded with the remarks that some matters, including some aspects of the consultative role of the governor in the Lahore High Court's decision, require clarification and interpretation, for which the court would be approached after consultation with legal and constitutional experts.

The meeting was attended by the ECP Secretary Umar Hamid Khan, ECP Officers, Punjab administration and others.

Pakistan, Kuwait agree to boost ties in energy, trade sectors



City Reporter

ISLAMABAD : Pakistan and Kuwait have agreed to boost economic ties in key areas, particularly in the energy and trade sectors.

The agreement came on Tuesday during a meeting between Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives, Prof Ahsan Iqbal and Minister for Finance of Kuwait Abdul Wahab Al-Rasheed.

It is noted that the conference on "Effective Nuclear and Radiation Regulatory Systems: Preparing for the Future in Rapidly Changing Environment," taking place in Abu Dhabi from February, 13 to 16 organised by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and hosted by the UAE's Federal Authority for Nuclear Regulation (FANR) of World Government Summit where Planning Minister is representing Pakistan, accompanied by Minister of State for Petroleum, Musadik Malik, said a press release issued here.

During the meeting, Ahsan Iqbal said that both countries have a strong relationship and they have agreed to

enhance economic cooperation in areas of interest which include trade and investment, particularly in the energy sector.

They also discussed enhancing access to the Kuwaiti market for Pakistani products as well as labour force.

During the meeting, opportunities offered by China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) also came under discussion, particularly Pakistan's success in turning around the energy sector during the last decade.

Kuwait's Minister for Finance Abdul Wahab Al-Rasheed appreciated the role of Pakistani workers in the development of Kuwait and appreciated the strong cultural, religious and economic ties between both nations.

He agreed that there is a lot of room for expanding the economic cooperation between both countries and proposed to follow-up meetings to implement the ideas which were discussed during the meeting.

It is hoped that the meeting will help in expanding the ambit of Pak-Kuwait relations by tapping the potential that both markets have presented.

PTS chief Hanif Mughal should be given an opportunity to serve

Tariq Khattak

ISLAMABAD: President of Pakistan Economy Watch Dr. Murtaza Mughal on Tuesday said people should not pin hopes on tried and tested politicians.

These politicians will not serve the masses and will do what they have been doing in the past, he said.

Those who took from IMF loans twenty-four times and hundreds of times from other countries and organizations have failed to stabilize the economy but they have successfully stabilized themselves, he added.

Dr. Murtaza Mughal said that tried and tested politicians will continue to do the same in the future without any consideration for the country and



masses.

Now the public should give the opportunity to the new people to serve as giving another chance to those who

have been continuously tried for decades amounts to damaging the country and coming generations.

These politicians consid-

er their party more important than the country and the nation, while their real goal is building properties abroad and setting up profitable businesses.

He said that corrupt and self-interested politicians have done nothing but create problems for the country and the nation.

Dr. Murtaza Mughal said this while talking to the Chairman of Pakistan Tehreek Shadbad Dr. Hanif Mughal who is the National Assembly's candidate from NA-52 of the federal capital.

Dr. Mughal said that the purpose of Pakistan Tehreek Shad Bad is to provide health, education, employment, and justice to the people. By fulfilling these objectives, Pakistan can become a real welfare state.

He said that the election symbol of Pakistan Tehreek Shadbad is a knife and with this knife, we will cut corruption, nepotism, and traditional chains.

Instead of giving tickets to experienced people, this party should give tickets to new and sincere people, which is the need of the hour.

Dr. Mughal, who is also the chief advisor of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Shad, said that Dr. Hanif Mughal is a highly educated and patriotic person who has started his election campaign from Rawat.

Divisional Bar Association Rawalkot elections PPP lawyers won victory. Sardar Abid Hussain Abid congratulated newly elected Barrister members.

Islamabad Capital Police is directed to maintain smooth flow of traffic on roads

City Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Capital Police issued 7076 fine tickets to vehicles over hampering traffic flow and overloading. It was also directed to ensure smooth flow of traffic at major roads and to take stern action against those creating inconvenience for the road users, a police public relations officer said.

He said that, while reviewing the overall performance report about traffic related issues, Chief Traffic Officer Islamabad, directed to depute special squads at Islamabad Expressway, IJP road, Srinagar Highway and other important boulevards to ensure smooth traffic flow.

Following the directions of Inspector General of Police (IGP) Islamabad Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan, the Islamabad capital police is taking all possible measures to ensure a safe road environment in the city with maximum convenience to road users. The special enforcement squads have been constituted to ensure the implementation of traffic rules and smooth flow of traffic in rush hours, he added.

Islamabad capital police personnel were directed to ensure traffic discipline in the city and take action against violators without any discrimination. Efforts are underway to ensure smooth traffic flow in the city and cooperation of road users is crucial to overcome the traffic related problems, he maintained.

DFP & APHC's call for a state-wide strike

Abdul Majeed Tahir

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir, Democratic Freedom Party has appealed to the Kashmiri people to observe a complete shutdown on Wednesday, February 15, against the Indian apartheid regime's forced eviction and land grabbing campaign in KASHMIR.

In his message from Tihar jail the DFP chief Syed Shabeer Shah while voicing his party's serious concern over the ongoing land eviction campaign said that after stripping the region of its special status the Modi government was now hell bent on snatching livelihoods from Kashmiris and depriving of their land and properties they had inherited from their fathers and forefathers. Urging people to come forward in a big way to thwart the RSS influenced regime's nefarious designs Shah said that it was high time that the Kashmiris regardless of their political affiliations should unite to protect the state's distinct identity by resistance New Delhi's move to settle non-Kashmiris in the territory.

Shah said the land eviction campaign was a deep rooted conspiracy aimed at diluting the identity of the indigenous people and reducing them as second class citizens in their own homeland.

Backing the Hurriyat's call for a state wide strike on 15 February, the DFP chief appealed the masses to observe complete strike on the day to express their resentment against the move.

APHC and LFK announced its first batch of emergency assistance to Turkey and Syria



News Desk

ISLAMABAD: The All Parties Hurriyat Conference (APHC) and Legal Forum for Kashmir (LFK) on behalf of the people of Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir announced its first batch of emergency assistance to Turkey and Syria for relief and rescue operation.

Today in a press conference in Islamabad the leaders of both organizations expressed their condolence with the people of Turkey and Syria.

Talking to media Ghulam Muhammad Safi intruded Syed Ali Geelani Rescue and Relief Organization, he stated that the people of Jammu and Kashmir can well understand the pain that our brethren are going through in Turkey and Syria. "Although we don't have much resources to aid people in such a devastating calamity but remaining silent is also not an option" he further said. We have already sent our aid there and will inform you once we arrive there.

Convener All Parties Hurriyat Conference Mehmood Ahmad Sagar while talking to media said that APHC in collaboration with Legal Forum For Kashmir (LFK) have decided to work together in this relief and rescue operation in the earthquake hit region. "Our people including students from both parts of Jammu and Kashmir are already on the forefront of relief and rescue operation in Turkey" Sagar added.

Sheikh Abdul mateen General secretary APHC and Imtiaz Wani Information Secretary APHC also speak on the occasion.

Valentine's Day

LAHORE: A large number of members of Shiite Muslims Community are participating in the Youm-e-Ali procession in Provincial Capital.



Photo: Online

RPO Dera visited Kulachi on the second day of anti-polio campaign

Adam Khan Wazir

DI KHAN: Regional Police Officer Dera Division Muhammad Saleem Marwat visited Tehsil Kulachi on the second day of anti-polio campaign, reviewed the security arrangements.

According to the details, Regional Police Officer Dera Ismail Khan Muhammad Saleem Marwat visited Tehsil Kulachi on the second day of anti-polio campaign.

On this occasion, District Police Officer Dera Muhammad Shoiab, National Polio Program Security Advisor Retired Brigadier Abul Hassan, Coordinator Dr Shahzad Baig, Security Advisor Retired Colonel



Muhammad Saleem, Security Advisor Rathor was also with him.

He made a detailed review of the security arrangements made for the polio campaign in different areas of Kulachi. Meanwhile, RPO Dera

Dera issued instructions to the policemen and said that the protection of polio workers is our top priority, along with the safety of polio workers, police officers and officials should also ensure the use of bulletproof jackets and helmets for their own safety.

Keep a close watch on the movement of suspicious persons, on this occasion the Regional Police Officer urged the parents that it is a national duty of all of us to vaccinate our children against polio, Cooperate with the police and anti-polio teams and vaccinate your children up to 5 years of age, to prevent them from physical disability.

met the workers of the polio teams and asked about the security issues. On which the polio workers expressed satisfaction over the security arrangements made by the police. On this occasion, RPO

Employees of Railways took out a protest rally in favor of their demands

Mian Rashid Asghar

FAISALABAD: The employees of Pakistan Railways took out a protest rally in favor of their demands and further demanded their legitimate rights. Under the leadership of President Prem Union Sheikh Anwar, there was a full protest on the platform.

The participants of the rally raised the slogans of "Luttge, Kha Gaye, oor Mur Gaye Bhoke". Central General Secretary Khalid Chaudhry has said that timely salary should be paid to railway employees and dues should be paid to retired personnel.

Sheikh Anwar has further said that immediate payment of GPF to the employees should be ensured.

The government should



release ten billion rupees to the railways for payments.

He further said that when the work is done, then why can't the salaries etc, be paid

on time?

The railway administration and the government of Pakistan should take care of the children of the rail-

way employees because these railway employees have always considered the services of Pakistan Railways as their home.

AJK: Divisional Bar Association Elections

Abdul Majeed Tahir

RAWALKOT: According to details In the Divisional Bar Association elections on the last day, the PPP panel took the lead of the lawyers of all the political parties. The entire panel of the PPP defeated the other parties and won a bitter victory.

According to the results, Sardar Khalid Mehmood Advocate President, Sardar Riaz Advocate Vice President, Bilal Shakir Advocate General Secretary, Atiq Shah Advocate Joint Secretary have been elected. Former Information Minister of Azad Kashmir Sardar Abid Hussain Abid attributed the success declaring to success of Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto's ideals, and he congratulate newly elected body of the Bar Association.

Federal Ombudsman asks for report on automakers' unilateral increases in vehicle prices

City Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Taking notice of the media reports and a large number of complaints received from Karachi and other cities against the unilateral increase in prices of automobiles by the manufacturers and assemblers, the Federal Ombudsman has called for a detailed report from the Ministry of Industries and Production.

It was noticed that the increase in the prices of vehicles unilaterally by the manufacturers, without any oversight mechanism amounts to maladministration. He has also asked the Ministry to ascertain the fact that auto manufacturers were charging over and above the prices at the time of delivery of the customers who had initially deposited due price. It is clear that it was an important responsibility of the Ministry of Industries and Production to regulate and monitor the prices.

Nankana Sahib Incident against the humanity: Allama Tahir

Mian Rashid Asghar

FAISALABAD: The cruelty and violence of the mob at district Nankana Sahib is not only a sad incident but also against the humanity. Islam completely cares the rights of human beings all over the universe, here and hereafter. There is also a dire need for the comprehensive political stability to improve the economic situation in Pakistan to save the persons who have been deprived from the bread and butter. Speaking on the institutions, he said that, those who speak against Pakistan Army and institutions are not well-wishers of Pakistan.

Allama Tahir ul Hassan, Central Deputy General Secretary of Pakistan Ulama Council and Member of Provincial Ittehad-e-Bain-Muslimin Committee, Punjab Government, said this in his special statement and added that in Nankana Sahib they were stripped naked and killed by violence. They are murderers of humanity when there is law and extraterrestrials. The court incident is very shameful.

This inhumane violence, killing and the attack on the police station is regrettable and condemnable. He would not have taken the law into his hands if the tragedy happened in Sialkot, had the accused been



punished, this sad incident would not have happened today. Pakistan is currently going through a critical situation. To end terrorism and sectarianism, all religious and political forces must have to show unity, looking at the economic situation today. All the politicians should put aside their differences and make Pakistan's economy more prosperous.

Alas! Those who are totally unaware about the ABC of politics are named as heroes in the politics. The nation must ignore such politics and politicians in all respect, if they want survival of their future.

Laws and laws enforcing agencies must play their role for sake of the people. Sheer the schema of obtaining the personal benefits is out of nation building.

44th victory of Islamic revolution marked



Naveed Ahmad Khan
photos by Ghulam Farid

ISLAMABAD: Special Assistant to the Prime Minister Syed Tariq Fatemi has said relations between Pakistan and Iran are time-tested adding this friendship is getting deeper and deeper with each passing day. He made these remarks while speaking on the occasion of the 44th anniversary of the glorious victory of the Islamic revolution of Iran and the National Day in a local hotel.

The event was organized by the Embassy of Islamic Republic Iran, Islamabad and the event was attended by Ambassadors, Head of Missions Defence Attaches and Pakistanis from different walks of life. Former Army Chief Mirza Aslam Baig, Federal Minister for Capital Administration and Development, Dr Tariq Fazal Choudhary, Liaqat Baluch (Jamaat e Islami), Director-General ISSI Ambassador Sobail Mahmood and Dean of Diplomatic corps & Ambassador of Turkmenistan Atadjan Movlamo also present on the occasion. The cake cutting ceremony took place after the national anthems of both countries

had been played.

Tariq Fatemi further said Iran had always stood beside Pakistan through thick and thin. He hoped this brotherly relationship would grow even further in the days to come.

Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran to Pakistan, Mohammad Ali Hosseini has wished for a bright, promising and prosperous future with all-round improvement of the relations and ties between the two brotherly, friendly and neighboring countries of Iran and Pakistan in his speech.

He highlighted the role and leadership of Imam Khomeini (R.A), following the revolution in 1979, forty-four years, despite obstacles such as the imposed war, sanctions, pressures and propaganda, Iranian people could attain great scientific, economic and technological achievements.

The Ambassador said that "I am proud to declare that the Islamic Republic of Iran enjoys self-sufficiency in most of the scientific, technological, industrial and agricultural areas".

Among the others, medicine and pharmacology, peaceful nuclear energy, space science, robotics, defense industries, nanotechnology, genetics and stem cells are some examples to name a few.

One of the greatest achievements of Iran during the past few decades is the improvement of the status of women and family in all fields including health, education, entrepreneurship, investment and employment, social rights and so on and so forth.

He said the Islamic Republic of Iran has played an incomparable role in ensuring the stability and security of the region and the world with heroic sacrifices at the forefront of the fight against the ominous phenomenon of



terrorism, extremism and drug trafficking. Iran has paid a heavy cost in this way and sacrificed valuable lives in the fight against the afore-mentioned plights.

During the last few years, with the

will and determination of the officials of the two friendly, brotherly and neighboring countries of Iran and Pakistan, the pace of the ties and relations have been accelerated in various fields.

Mohammad Ali Hosseini said that

Iran has geographical strategic location in the region, enormous natural resources, competitive and economical energy basket, human resources and a large potential market.

He also expressed his heartfelt

sympathy to the government and honorable people of Turkey and Syria due to the grievous death of a significant number of the citizens of these two friendly, brotherly and Muslim countries following a severe earthquake.



Jolting (Judiciary) Elements (Establishment) of Pakistan (Politics)



Amjad Mehmood

The country full of natural blessings is struggling on all fronts after 75 years. Before we talk about solutions, there is a need to identify the devil forces causing all bad to prosperity of Pakistan. Putting aside the self-centered mythologies one can advocate, there are proven causes of this pitfall due to inefficiency of the judiciary, establishment, and politics.

The judiciary is responsible to administer the justice system as per law in the country. It is obligation of the judiciary to preserve, protect and defend the constitution. The provision of justice to the common man and supremacy of law is the identity of an efficient judicial system. The establishment is a broader term and in civilized countries, it is responsible to develop an efficient, effective, and motivated human resource following an institutionalized merit system whereas, in Pakistan, the establishment is always signified as a "Military Establishment". Then its core task is to defend the country from potential internal and external threats. Their legal mandate restricts them to safeguard the country and maintain the security situation by devising strategies of warfare. Lastly, politics establish a society with standard legislation, norms, and values where citizens enjoy basic rights and demonstrate civic responsibilities. Pakistani politics circle around power with no character and sense of responsibility.

The contemporary circumstances in Pakistan are the results of misdeeds performed by our judiciary, establishment, and politicians who did everything beyond mandate to gratify their ego and vested interest at the cost of nation's future. This gloom did not surface overnight; rather it was sketched by the military establishment with the help of incapable judicial and political systems in Pakistan.

Historically, there are examples of several nations who have progressed

to the pinnacle through their honesty and resolve including China, Argentina, Brazil, and India. China started its journey in 1978 after introducing economic reforms and is now positioned as the world's second-largest economic power. India and Pakistan share an independence history and after 75 years India's reserves are \$573 billion while we have \$3.1 billion in reserves which are actually borrowed from other countries. With 2nd largest population in the country, India is touching a 6.8% GDP growth rate in 2023 and comparatively, Pakistan is making all-out efforts to avoid an economic default by accepting all conditions imposed by the IMF to release a bailout package. Bangladesh is a classic example to quote as the country was liberated in 1971 from Pakistan and now established its identity as the world's rapidly growing economy with \$33.78 billion in reserves with a figure of \$52.08 billion in exports.

The tale of our economic disaster is not a secret. The multidimensional crises have gripped Pakistan's economy including poor policies, lack of planning, corruption, high inflation, political instability, more imports than exports, and natural calamities. Except for natural calamities, the rest of the reasons are self-created and structural problems of the teetering economy of Pakistan. The lack of a transparent economic system & sustainable policies, disproportionately higher involvement of government in economic activities, and inappropriate tax system are adding sullenness to financial health of the country. The recovery roadmap demands coherent & sincere efforts and sacrifice from all stakeholders. Theoretically, everyone is dying in the grief of the country without taking a single substantial step to end the catastrophe.

Starting with the judiciary role in Pakistan, a deep insight offers nothing to share with pride. The institution created to safeguard the constitution and justice system has a history of compromises over its basic role and responsibilities. Judicial independence is critical to the functioning of any democracy. The country ensuring judicial independence also protects the feeble from the powerful, the minority from the majority, the poor from the influences of rich-

er, and the government from misuse of power. The most simplified definition of an independent judiciary is the 'ability and duty of a judge to decide each case on merit according to applicable law and without influence of outside factors'. The absence of all these values attributes to the existence of a compromised judiciary in Pakistan. Provision of legal cover to military dictators, the awry decisions of death sentence to an elected prime minister, and toppling of elected governments are pendants of the Pakistani judiciary. History is full of judges like Maulvi Mushtaq Hussain who made controversial decisions putting aside merit and law to uphold justice. Regular pressure from bar associations and senior lawyers set the fate of the cases in Pakistani courts.

The malady of Judicial populism

and indirect movements against civilian governments are the identity of Pakistani establishment. The country recurrently paid heavy prices for their adventurous approach and for making new experiments. The civil-military power equation is a topic of concern in Pakistan but the debate never advanced to outline a practical formula. The country with a devastating economy which is breathing on international monetary support offers lucrative perks and privileges to the armed forces. The list of allied benefits ranging from essential to luxuries is even mind-boggling. The annual spending on defense services surges to Rs. 1,523 billion. About Rs. 500 billion for pensions for retired armed forces employees is a separate liability which is being managed from the civil-

Military establishment has a vital role in orchestrating the concept of deep-state dominance in Pakistan. Operating beyond the mandate, they repeatedly made utterly wrong decisions and caused

irreparable losses to the country. Ideally, they should have expertise in the security domain however, they always preferred to show muscles in the political sphere through covert intervention. Targeting a political figure, nurturing to a slot of leader, and planting in government have been their core strategies since the 1950s. Pro-military politicians and judges provide seed and justification to the military generals to rule over the country. They regularly hunt such compromised politicians and judges to provide them convenience in safeguarding their luxuries and goals. By making all these efforts, the idea of rule of law and country stands nowhere for power elites.

The various phases of martial law



and activism was introduced in 2007 when Chief Justice Iftikhar Muhammad Chaudhry had a conflict with military dictator General Musharraf. He started to enjoy populism as the media framed his heroic image in public. He also started to use the power of suo moto frequently and paved the way for judicial activism. The glamor of popularity allures judges to focus on remarks rather than justice. Their names and statements flashed on TV screens and printed in newspapers are becoming a source of contentment. The only goal achieved by the Pakistani judiciary is to ensure ultimate privileges and facilitation for judges and support staff during and after retirement. The recent confes-

ion budget since General Musharraf's regime. A poor country is handling such heavy economic liabilities with a 'wish' that the military operates within its constitutional role. The lust for power and ruling the country enabled the military establishment to intervene in political affairs. Recently, former Army Chief General Qamar Javed Bajwa announced that the military has distanced itself from politics and would maintain 'apolitical' status in the future. There are a hundred reasons not to believe this claim until the military establishment proves it with their actions and character. Pakistan is a political reality after unmatched efforts made by the Quaid-

of Pakistan.

e-Azam and his fellows for freedom from the British rulers. After his demise in 1948, it was the politicians' duty to cherish his political legacy. The partisan and self-centric approach of political parties led to an unstable Pakistan. Political crises in Pakistan have not developed overnight; rather politicians' egoism and lack of vision fueled to reach a contemporary state of disaster which is constantly hurting the country. No political party is exclusively responsible for the current circumstance however; all have an equal share to spark off economic, social, and political crises.

The constitution of Pakistan provides a complete framework for politics in the country. The formation of central and provincial governments, functions, authority, limits, transparency, audit, and all essential roles are well-defined. The three branches of government known as executive, legislative and judicial have their dedicated mandate to function within the constitutional role. In a democratic state, the political parties devise their manifestos to remain distinct from each other and contest in elections. The victorious stands eligible to form a government and serve the nation.

So far, real democracy has not landed in Pakistan. Otherwise, Pakistan would have progressed like India and Bangladesh who have witnessed significant growth in all walks of life. A controlled and partial democratic system is functioning in Pakistan with a number of acute diseases. The political parties intend to have worshipers instead of political workers. There is no vision and planning for the future to bring social and economic prosperity. All efforts circle around the attainment of power through any legal, illegal, or shortcut method to lead the government and grip the resources. The greed for power forced politicians to sacrifice democratic values where public has great values and participation in the formation of policies. The mutual rifts and intriguing nature of politicians create a vacuum for non-democratic forces to play their role time and again.

Pakistan, being a nuclear power heading swiftly toward an economic default with the potential threat of social unrest. Judiciary and establishment have an obvious role to reach this adversity, however, politicians have miserably failed to demonstrate political maturity. Time is ticking fast to a make-and-break situation and demand from all stakeholders to show some mercy on Pakistan by performing their role as assigned to them by the constitution of Pakistan.

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WHO announces \$43m appeal to scale up response in quake-hit Syria, Turkiye

Spokesman Report

The World Health Organization (WHO), a Geneva-based UN agency, has launched a \$43 million appeal to support earthquake response in Syria and Turkiye where the death toll has reportedly climbed to more than 33,000 people Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus announced.

The amount is set to increase as the magnitude of the disaster becomes clearer, he said, speaking during a press conference from the Syrian capital, Damascus, according to a UN press release issued at UN Headquarters in New York on Sunday afternoon.

Tedros also reported that the Syrian authorities appear open to allowing more border crossings to deliver humanitarian aid into the northwest.

War-ravaged Syria is divided into areas under the control of the Government, opposition forces and armed groups.

WHO said it is working across all areas affected by the earthquake, which struck on Monday.

The UN agency is also scaling up operations across the country, including in the northwest,

where the impact is even worse.

More than 4,300 deaths and 7,600 injuries have been reported there, according to the UN humanitarian affairs office, OCHA.

Prior to the earthquake, 4.1 million people were already dependent on humanitarian aid, and their needs were at an all-time high.

Tedros stressed the need to take response "to the next level" to reach all populations in need.

He welcomed the decision by the United States to ease sanctions against Syria in the wake of the tragedy.

"We equally appreciate the recent blanket approval by the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic for the UN for cross-line convoys, as well as measures to increase cross-border access. We hope this continues," he said.

The WHO chief reported that he had met with Syrian President Bashar al-Assad earlier on Sunday afternoon "who indicated he was open to considering additional cross-border access points for this emergency."

Tedros said he is waiting to move across conflict lines to northwest Syria.

"We're on stand-by actually," he told reporters. "We can move anytime now through the coast-

line to the northwest. Based on the blanket permit, we have already permission from this side. We're waiting now to hear from the other side. As soon as we get that we will cross to the northwest."

After the earthquake struck, WHO said it immediately

The UN agency also is supporting the surge capacity of frontline specialized medical teams.

ly accessed its pre-positioned supplies in the northwest and Aleppo, thus making treatment of major injuries possible. Staff also began distributing supplies to health facilities.

Tedros arrived in Syria on Saturday, where WHO and partners have so far distributed 110 tonnes of medical supplies to affected areas across the country.

A flight is scheduled to arrive in Damascus on Sunday night with vital specialized emergency health supplies for frontline workers.

The UN agency also is supporting the surge capacity

of frontline specialized medical teams.

The earthquake is the latest crisis to hit Syria, following the ongoing conflict, the COVID-19 pandemic, cholera outbreaks, and economic decline.

Twelve years of war have "pulverized" the healthcare system, said Dr. Michael Ryan, WHO Emergencies Director. Prior to the earthquake, just 50 per cent of health facilities were functioning, but the true impact is much greater.

"Not only physical damage to the infrastructure itself but the exodus of health workers, the loss of salaries, loss of training," he said. "It's just that death by a thousand cuts to the system."

Tedros expressed "deep respect and admiration" for the survivors, first responders and health workers, though pointing to the immense needs.

National and international organizations, but also neighbours, mosques, churches and community groups, have been racing to deliver everything from food, clean water and medical care, to a safe space for people to sleep.

Tedros was in Aleppo on Saturday and visited a WHO-supported mobile health clinic distributing medicines to people with conditions such as

headaches, anxiety and difficulty sleeping

"WHO and other organizations have trained community workers to offer rapid mental health support, but much more is needed," he said.

While in the city, according to the press release, Tedros met a young girl called Nour, who lost her parents and suffered a broken arm when their six-story apartment building collapsed, noting that she "is just one example of an unfolding tragedy that is affecting millions".

Meanwhile, the UN Special Envoy for Syria, Geir Pedersen, arrived in Damascus on Sunday on a pre-planned visit.

He affirmed that humanitarians will do all they can to access everyone who needs help and underlined his efforts to rally support.

"We are reaching out of course to bilateral countries, we are mobilizing funding and we're trying to tell everyone put politics aside. This is a time to unite behind a common effort to support the Syrian people," he said.

"I'm in close touch with the UN humanitarian family, we're working together to try to mobilize this support and that of course is my key message during this visit to Syria."

Growing water crisis as global climate change

Pakistani parliamentarians, speaking at the annual Parliamentary Hearing at the UN, have called for enhanced international cooperation to deal with the growing water crisis as global climate change was increasingly impacting water availability, leading to water scarcity in some regions and flooding in others.

Entitled 'Water for People and Planet: Stop the waste, change the game, invest in the future,' the Hearing, a joint initiative between the President of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) and the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), opened on Monday.

UN officials said that the Hearing will provide a parliamentary contribution to the UN Water Conference, which is being held from March 22-24, 2023, in New York.

The Deputy Speaker of Pakistan's National Assembly, Zahid Akram Durrani, is leading the Pakistani parliamentary delegation, which includes, Murtaza Javed Abbasi, Federal Minister for Parliamentary Affairs, Senator Sana Jamali, Senator Naseema Ehsan, Senator Farooq Hamid Naek, Senator Muhammad Abdul Qadir and Senator Faisal Saleem Rahman.

More than 250 members of parliament, Speakers, advisers and related officials from 60 countries are participating in the event at the United Nations Headquarters in New York

Deputy Speaker Durrani, the Pakistani delegate, told the Hearing that water scarcity caused by climate change stemmed from underinvestment in water and sanitation and insufficient cooperation on transboundary waters.

The urgency of these challenges differed across regions, Durrani said, pointing out that while globally water stress levels remained safe at 18.6 per cent in 2019, South Asia registered high levels of water stress at over 75 per cent.

With Pakistan among the top ten water scarce countries in the world, he said, the need for enhanced cooperation on water has assumed greater urgency in recent years, with climate change increasingly impacting water availability, leading to water scarcity in some regions and flooding in others.

"Undoubtedly, water will increasingly become a key factor in managing risks related to famine, disease epidemics, migration, inequalities within and between countries, political instability and natural disasters, the Pakistani delegate said.

"To overcome these challenges, we believe that there are three essential requirements: finance, technology transfer and enhanced international cooperation," Durrani added.

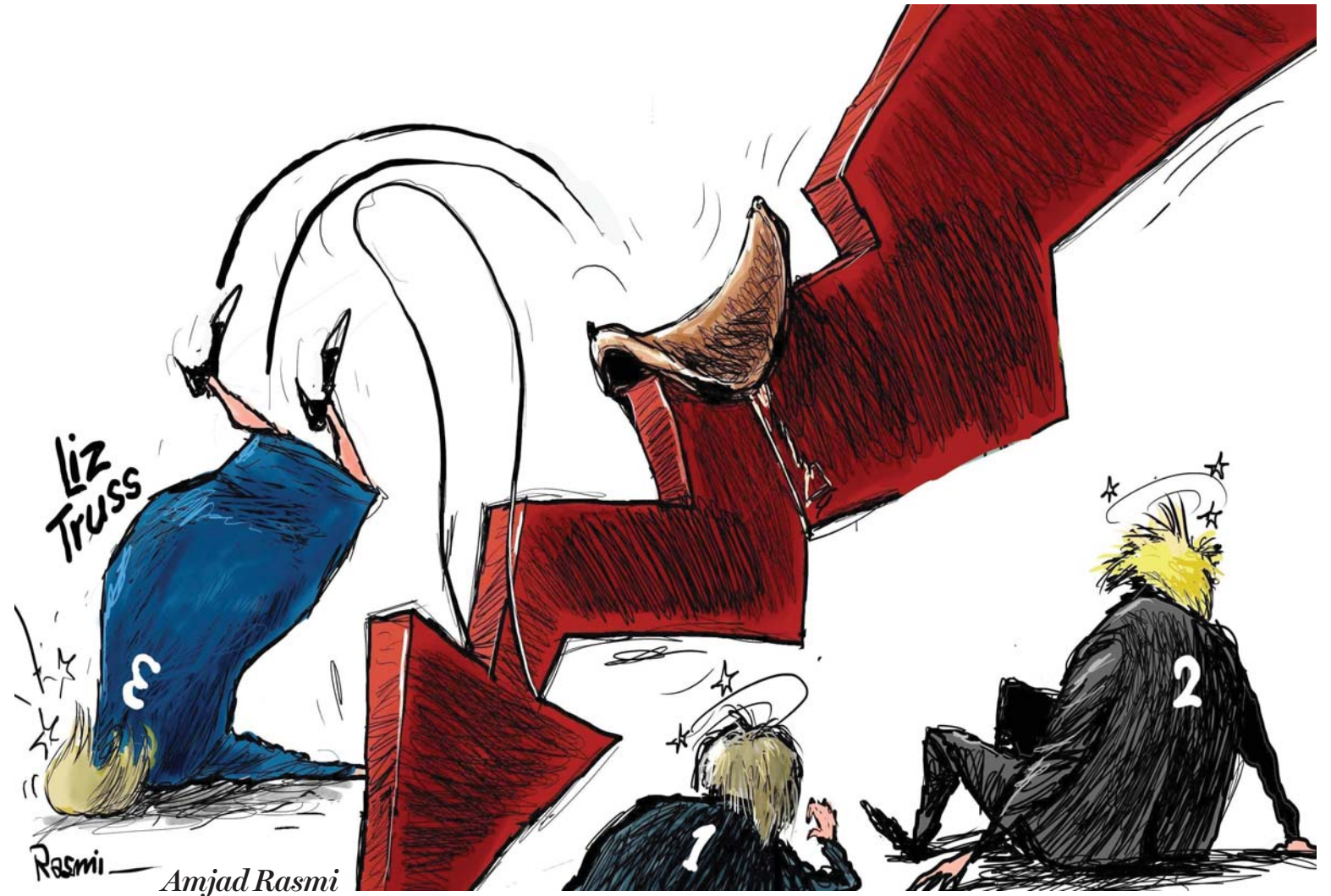
Durrani also met the UN General Assembly President, Csaba Korosi, on the sidelines of the Hearing.

In the second session on 'Access to Safe Water as a Human Right,' Senator Sana Jamali, called for helping the developing nations by providing financial resources and technology transfers in accessing affordable and safe drinking water as well as improving sanitation and hygienic situations for all.

"In order to fulfill the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation, we would highlight three essential requirements: finance, technology transfer and enhanced international cooperation, especially to developing countries," Senator Jamali said.

In the third session on 'Climate Change and Water Scarcity: Building Resilience to avoid the worst,' Senator Abdul Qadir said that water and climate change were inextricably linked.

In this regard, he stressed the need for scaling up investments to adequately adapt water supply and sanitation services, energy production, flood protection, water storage and irrigation schemes ahead of climate impacts.



Encouraging cotton growing helps excel textile industry

Iftikhar Ahmad

With the country faces severe economic crunch, the government is mulling multiple options for economic revival including boosting exports to strengthen depleting foreign exchange reserves and generate employment opportunities to overcome growing poverty.

As textile industry had been the key player in exports over the decades, paying special heed to this sector by providing congenial environment could pave the way to capture more international markets and earn revenue.

Enhanced cotton growing is of vital importance for this sector as it encompasses a bigger chain of operations from farming to textiles mills and then to end users' products showcased at fashion apparel outlets.

This chain of operations not only benefits industrialists but also a major chunk of our populace linked to agricultural sector. But unfortunately, cotton growing diminished with the passage of time after installation of Sugar Mills in cotton growing areas, especially in South Punjab and Sindh provinces.

Pakistan Cotton Ginners Association (PCGA), in its recent fortnightly report on cotton arrivals has put the production figure at 4.7 million bales till Feb 1, 2023 that is almost 35 per cent below than last year.

"If we reach five million bales this year by end of next month, it would be around 50 per cent below than the official production assessment of 11 million bales for 2023", informed PCGA Chairman Chaudhry Waheed Arshad.

"If we have to survive with our textile industry, we must frame result oriented policies focusing both the farmers and the industri-

alists," he stated.

Chaudhry Waheed Arshad recommended measures like announcing support price, declaring specific cotton zones, introducing high yielding, climate smart and pests resistant cotton varieties and mechanized farming techniques to get desired results.

He claimed that the country has lost 2.4 million acre cotton area to other crops during last 15 years and "if this trend continues, it would be a severe blow to the cotton-based industries. Therefore, we need to employ full potential of this sector." He was confident sooner or later agriculture sector would attain the status of an industry and farmers must be well prepared to harvest its benefits.

According to the Trade Development Authority of Pakistan (TDAP), Pakistan is the 8th largest exporter of textile products in Asia with 4th largest producer and third largest consumer of cotton. Textile is 46 per cent of Pakistan's total manufacturing sector that provides employment to 40 per cent of total labor force.

Khawaja Usman, a noted industrialist owning spinning units has said that usually, textile sector needs 16 million cotton bales annually to add value and export a variety of products to international market.

"However, the temporary closure of some textile units due to the global recession troubled the economy.

Therefore, local textile sector requirements would revolve around 12-13 million bales this year," he predicted.

He said if production finally turns out to be five million bales in 2023, textile sector would need to import seven million bales to meet its requirements. "Therefore, the textile sector had already finalized contracts for import of required cotton bales."

Khawaja Usman stressed to incentivize the

farmers to grow cotton on more area, and the industry to enable it to compete in international market as he regretted that falling of cotton production by 16 per cent to merely 8.6 million bales in 2020 from 10.2 million bales in 2019, is not encouraging.

The TDAP officials quoting Pakistan Bureau of Statistics data have also revealed that Pakistan earned over US\$15 billion (15400 million dollars) in financial year 2021 up from over US\$ 12.5 billion (12526 million dollars) in 2020 from cotton and textile products. According to their statistics although exports of various textile products registered increase, yet export of raw cotton nosedived by 95 per cent in FY 2021 with the main factor being lower production than expectations.

Vice President, Multan Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Asim Saeed Sheikh has also claimed that local cotton production was usually falling short to meet the needs of the textile sector, except for 2011 when Pakistan touched the highest mark of 14.7 million bales.

"Many of cotton growing farmers shifted to sugarcane crop over the years resulting in diminishing produce. Above this, we also witnessed torrential rains and flooding this year that swept away large cotton areas," he said. "This would obviously prove to be a major challenge for cotton growers and allied industries."

According to a climate change research, poor seed quality, heat waves, virus, pests and increasing trend of farmers to switching to other profitable crops for some quick profits reduced cotton production.

Therefore, it is high time to fully concentrate this segment of the economy to steer the country out of the economic crunch, boost exports and earn foreign exchange to bridge trade and current account deficits

Govt kotows to another IMF demand

Waseem Khokhar

The government on Tuesday while bowing to another demand of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) has decided to increase sales tax.

In this regard, the Ministry of Finance officials have sent a draft Medium-Term Economic Framework (MEF) to the international lender. The IMF will respond to the Ministry of Finance again by tomorrow.

According to sources, the IMF will review the Memorandum of Economic and Financial Policies (MEFP) draft sent by the Ministry of Finance and send it back. The government has taken a principled decision to increase the sales tax in various categories to appease the IMF.

The finance ministry said that there is a strong possibility that important progress will be made by the IMF during this week, and the government will soon decide on bringing an ordinance for the Rs170 billion mini-budget.

The federal cabinet will also deliberate on the nature of the mini-budget and the ordinance. Pakistan, IMF resume virtual talks over bailout package

Earlier today, Pakistan and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) have resumed their talks over release of ninth tranche of the Extended Fund Facility (EFF). The federal government hopes that these virtual discussions will lead to a deal that eases up ever-increasing pressure on the country's ailing economy.

Finance Secretary Hamed Yaqoob Sheikh said the "duration (of the talks) cannot be confirmed but we intend to wrap these up at the soonest". Islamabad held 10 days of intensive talks with an IMF delegation from Jan 31 to Feb 9—but could not reach a deal.

Know More: Pakistan's bonds dive as IMF talks end without deal

The IMF, however, said in an earlier statement that both sides had agreed to stay engaged and "virtual discussions will continue in the coming days to finalise

the implementation details" of the policies discussed in Islamabad.

Talks between the International Monetary Fund and Pakistan were to be resumed virtually as the two sides look to reach a deal to unlock funding critical to keep the cash-strapped south Asian country afloat.

A Pakistani official told the international wire service on Monday that the two sides could not reach a deal last week and a visiting IMF delegation departed Islamabad after 10 days of talks, but said negotiations would continue. Pakistan is in dire need of funds as it battles a wrenching economic crisis.

"Duration (of the talks) cannot be confirmed but we intend to wrap these up at the soonest," Finance Secretary Hamed Yaqoob Sheikh told Reuters in a text message, confirming that talks were resuming on Monday.

Talks centre around reaching an agreement on a reforms agenda under the country's \$6.5 bailout programme, which it entered in 2019.

An agreement on the ninth review of the programme would release over \$1.1 billion.

Cash-strapped Pakistan, plans to implement new taxes worth 170 billion rupees this month to secure a large bailout which will further escalate the already spiralling inflation in the country.

The IMF has postponed the release of \$1.1 billion of a \$6 billion deal, agreed upon in 2019, due to Pakistan's failure to meet the conditions.

After concluding the most recent round of talks, the IMF suggested several measures, including the imposition of new taxes. Although Pakistan received pledges of more than \$9 billion from international institutions to help with flood recovery, the funds will only be given for specific projects and not as cash.

Finance Minister Ishaq Dar is preparing to introduce new taxes and reduce subsidies on electricity and gas to fulfill the terms of the agreement.

Pakistan's inflation rate is likely to jump from 26% to 40% after the new taxes are imposed, but further delay in securing the IMF bailout would make life even more challenging for the common people.

M/O Climate Change and UNDP building a Resilient Pakistan through Early Warning Systems

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD : Ministry of Climate Change and UNDP Pakistan held a four-day training, supported by the Green Climate Fund, for government officials and technical teams on assembling, installing, commissioning and operating Early Warning Systems (EWS). The intervention is aligned with the Government of Pakistan and UNDP's mandate to mainstream environmental concerns into national and sub-national development planning processes.

These Early Warning Systems will be installed in the 24 most climate-vulnerable valleys of Gilgit Baltistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. This initiative, by UNDP's GLOF-II project, is an important step towards climate adaptation and in building the resilience of communities. For any future climate-induced disasters such as Glacial Lake Outburst Floods (GLOFs), these systems will provide timely warning for safe evacuations.



The training was executed by CAE S.p.A, an Italian firm, that specializes in Early Warning Systems. The participants included officials from the Pakistan Meteorological Department, Provincial Disaster Management Authorities (DMAs), and District Administrations from GB and KP governments; capacitating participants on the operations, architecture, configuration, commissioning, and installation

of the systems in the challenging mountainous terrains in the north of Pakistan where the GLOF-II project is working.

The participants were given training in EWS components which comprise of advanced Automatic Weather Stations (AWS), rain gauges, snow depth sensors, water depth gauges, water discharge gauges, data loggers and warning posts. These highly sensi-

tive gauges and sensors will generate data to prompt the relevant authorities for timely preparation and response to climate disasters such as GLOFs.

Ministry of Climate Change and UNDP's GLOF-II Project is working with relevant provincial authorities and administration on the construction of base platforms in the project valleys. The installation is expected to commence in mid-March 2023 and will continue until September 2023.

GLOF-II project, operating in 16 valleys of Gilgit Baltistan and 8 valleys in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, aims to empower communities to identify and manage risks associated with GLOFs and related impacts of climate change, strengthen public services to lower the risk of disasters related to GLOF, and improve community preparedness and disaster response. The project also supports the development of sustainable options for livelihoods in project areas, with a particular focus on the participation of women in ensuring food security and livelihoods.

Soft launching

KARACHI: Singapore Airlines (SIA) appointed Gerry's International as its General Sales Agent (GSA) in Pakistan. Group photo of both organizations seniors on the occasion of soft launching



Photo: Online

Nestlé Pakistan recognised at OICCI Women Empowerment Awards 2022

News Desk

KARACHI: Nestlé Pakistan was recognised at the Overseas Investors Chamber of Commerce and Industry Women Empowerment Awards 2022, held in Karachi, becoming the first runner-up.

The acknowledgement reaffirms Nestlé Pakistan's constant commitment towards creating an inclusive culture, in a country where gender gap is staggering and female representation in workforce is low.

Upon receiving the award, Komal Altaf, Chief Financial Officer, Nestlé Pakistan said, "Long-term prosperity is only possible when women are provided a level playing field to achieve their potential and we have been working very hard to implement these principles within our organization as well as outside.

"Leaders at all levels within the company lead diversity goals which form an integral part of each functions' detailed business plan. This not only shows Nestlé Pakistan's commitment and dedication to women empowerment, in line with UN SDGs 5 - Gender Equality, 8 - Decent Work & Economic Growth and 10 - Reduced Inequalities, but also motivates us to continue our mission further," she said.

Nestlé Pakistan's internal programs 'Phir Se Ker Dikhaao' provides the right coaching and experiential learning for women to connect back with their work life while 'Kero Aitmaad' program, breaks stereotypes and encourage young female university students by sharing stories of those that joined the workforce, instilling hope, ambition and self-confidence.

Externally, Nestlé Pakistan has been playing its role in community engagement and enhancement through various programs such as the Nestlé BISP Rural Women Sales Program is providing livelihood opportunities to beneficiaries of the Benazir Income Support Program (BISP).

To date, more than 2,200 BISP beneficiaries have graduated out of poverty by becoming rural sales agents.

OICCI launches Diversity & Inclusion Handbook at the 5th Women Empowerment Awards

Spokesman Report

KARACHI: The Overseas Investors Chamber of Commerce and Industry (OICCI), consisting of more than 200 of the largest foreign investors operating in Pakistan, has strived to promote females at leadership positions through its flagship Women Empowerment Awards, marking this the 5th successive year the Awards were held. Dr. Ishrat Hussain, former Governor State Bank of Pakistan, was the Chief Guest of the Ceremony.

President OICCI, Ghias Khan, remarked "There is a high need for gender inclusive measures to ensure expedited socio-economic growth.



Female labor participation in Pakistan, at 21%, remains the lowest amongst regional peers," continued Ghias Khan, "Bridging the female employment gap will increase employment by up to 19 million and boost Pakistan's GDP by up to 23% according to World Bank estimates."

declared the first and second runners-up respectively. An independent jury vetted the performance of the companies from different aspects and awarded the Overall Best Performer and awards for all other categories.

Expanding the scope of the awards beyond OICCI members, Ms. Sima Kamil was declared the first winner of Iconic Corporate Women Leaders Award, based on nominations received from OICCI members.

This was an award introduced from this year, to recognize corporate female leaders who can serve as an inspiration to the younger female generation for the bars they have set in the corporate world.

Framing Charter of Economy-LCCI, ICAP and PIFA Announce Collaborative Efforts

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: Minister of State and Chairman Reforms and Resource Mobilization Committee-Ashfaq Yousaf Tola, led an economic briefing session hosted by Lahore Chamber of Commerce & Industry (LCCI). The delegation also included President Institute of Chartered Accountants of Pakistan (ICAP)-Mr. M. Ali Latif and Council Members-Mr. M. Maqbool and Mr. Zeeshan Ijaz. The event, held at the LCCI, was attended by LCCI President Kashif Anwar, Senior Management of LCCI, Stakeholders representing the business community, as well as prominent journalists.

The Minister of State stated that they have been discussing the Charter of Economy for a long time. This is a dream that will soon be realized. He

further suggested that stakeholders should sit with ICAP, suggest solutions, bring up issues one by one, and work to resolve them.

The Lahore Chamber of Commerce & Industry (LCCI), the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Pakistan (ICAP), and the Pakistan Institute of Public Finance Accountants (PIPFA) announced collaborative efforts aimed to develop a comprehensive document on Charter of Economy to be led by LCCI President Kashif Anwar & President ICAP - M. Ali Latif.

Both Presidents emphasized that all Chambers of Commerce should work together to help frame the Charter of Economy, which can then be presented to the Government and other political parties.

While addressing the participants of

the briefing session, President ICAP stated that Political Stability is important for Economic Stability and then Growth. Our country is currently suffering from severe political instability which is having a direct impact on our economy. He stated that it is imperative that efforts be made to bring together all Stakeholders through Sectoral Consultative Sessions for framing this Charter of Economy. The most important Stakeholders are the Political Parties as without their express commitment to implement the Charter of Economy, it would only reduce to a piece of paper. President ICAP further stated that Sectoral Policies of Tariff & Taxation would be developed with an aim for Import substitution after obtaining comments from FBR & Ministry of Finance. President ICAP urged political parties to share their economic manifes-

tos and engage in debates on important economic issues. M. Ali Latif further stated that achieving political consensus on economic policies is crucial to addressing the country's economic problems and advancing sustainable economic growth-which is the primary goal of the current Minister of Finance.

President LCCI stated that whichever political party comes to power, should then fully implement this Charter. Pakistan has been facing economic crisis for many years. The country has suffered from low growth rates, high levels of debt, inflation, low productivity, and poor competitiveness, which has led to widespread poverty and slow development. Overcoming these economic challenges is crucial for the future of Pakistan.

A meeting was planned in next month between representatives of ICAP, PIPFA



and LCCI to share research work and schedule consultative sessions.

This Valentine's Day Spotify bring unique blend features for its listeners to fall in love with

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: It's that time of the year again when people are in search of ways for expressing their love and strengthening their relationship with their loved ones. And Spotify has once again stood up as the perfect sidekick to deliver captivating music for the occasion while also going a step further by revitalizing its Blend feature to deliver uniquely personalized taste match scores for you and yours.

The latest addition to Blend helps you not only create a shared playlist, enabling you to find and Blend with someone you are in tune with, and connecting on a much deeper level, but also helps you discover your musical compatibility with creative badges for the season of love.

Spotify's Blend offers you the chance to explore your connection with your loved ones in a deeply personalized and carefully curated manner. Simply search for Blend on Spotify and invite your loved ones to it. Once they accept, you'll unlock your shared playlist, finding a collection of music that you both love. It is a language of music, and a connection that has a mesmerizing feel to it. Hold on though! It doesn't stop there.

For 2023, Blend offers you a music compatibility score with badges like Discovery Duo, Pass the Aux Pair and Off The Charts based on how well the two people jam as a pair. Each score range comes with a refreshing label. For instance, between 0-25%, you get the 'Relationship Rising' badge which signifies a bond that is going to shape into something beautiful down the line. 26-50% are the 'Discovery Duo', 51-70% are the 'Pass the Aux Pair', 71-90% are 'Made for Us' and 91-100% are 'Off the Charts'.

Zong 4G signs an MoU with "Knowledge Platform"

Commerce Reporter

ISLAMABAD :In order to address the rising demand for organizational administration, campaign analytics, and the generation of digital content, Zong 4Ghas partnered with Knowledge Platform, a top EdTech company, to help speed up the penetration of a hi-tech Learning Management System (LMS).

One of the top providers of "next-generation" learning solutionsforthe Asia-Pacific, with headquarters in Singapore, Knowledge Platform will help Zong 4G develop an online learning and management solution for its corporate clients that will help them improve their business operations.

The ceremony took place in Islamabad where both Zong 4G management and representatives from Knowledge Platform were present. Representing Zong 4G were Mr. Farooq Raza (Director GCSS), Shehryar Ahmed (Senior Manager Growth Segments & Planning) and Shehryar Hassan (Assistant Manager Growth Manufacturing & Education).

Representing Knowledge Platform was their CEO, Mr. Mahboob Mahmood, along with Mr. Omer Iqbal (COO), and Mr. Umair Ali (Director Outreach and Engagement).

This partnership is another step in Zong 4G's efforts to provide businesses with effective solutions and services thathelp them digitize their operations and improve performance. The partnership is in line with Zong's focus on promoting a "Digital Pakistan."

P&G Pakistan wins champion of 2022 award

Spokesman Report

KARACHI: P&G Pakistan, in recognition of its women empowerment initiatives and diverse and equitable workplace ethics, was honored with the title of Champion of 2022, at the annual OICCI Women Empowerment Awards held by the Overseas Investors Chamber of Commerce and Industry (OICCI). The award ceremony was held at OICCI HQ.

OICCI, the oldest and largest investment chamber, plays a major role in the growth of commerce and industry in the country with 200 plus members representing 35 different countries and 14 different sectors of trade and industry. OICCI Women Empowerment Awards are the continuation of the OICCI Women initiative which was launched to encourage member companies to become role models to empower women in the workforce and create gender equality within their respective organizations.

Promoting gender equality and diversity has been a long-standing mission of P&G Pakistan. The company has been actively working to raise their voice to tackle gender bias, remove barriers to education for girls, create economic opportunities for women through corporate and brand programs, and policy advocacy, achieve an inclusive, gender-equal environment within P&G, while also advocating for gender and intersectional equality in workplaces everywhere so that everyone can contribute to their full potential.



Former Governor State Bank of Pakistan, Dr. Ishrat Hussain presents a memento to President and CEO UBL, Shazad G. Dada accompanied by CEO Terrabiz, Hamza Hashmi at the 4th Digital Banking and Payments Summit and Expo - DigiBAP2023 - at Karachi.

Pakistan-IAEA Partnership: Nuclear Technology for Sustainable Development

By: Maryam Siddiqi Baba

Nuclear technology with its inherent efficiency is moving headlong in developing smart and sustainable solutions to global environmental and socio-economic challenges. The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), with its mandate of 'Atoms for Peace and Development' has a unique portfolio of over 60 years in employment of nuclear technology for varied sectors of peaceful applications. These applications vary from health to climate and from agriculture to industrial applications and safety. Pakistan has been a long-term partner and beneficiary of IAEA's Technical Cooperation (TC) programme which is aimed to assist and coordinate with Member States in utilization of peaceful nuclear technology for the best probable and efficient solutions.

Pakistan, in cooperation with IAEA is working systematically to achieve goals set by the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). These SDGs have identified seventeen (17) areas in immediate need of long-term and consistent action and planning against food insecurity, challenges to health, lack of access to quality education, gender inequality, inaccessibility to clean water and sanitation, unavailability of affordable and clean energy, dearth of decent work and challenges to achieve economic goals, climate action and dangers to the preservation of marine life. IAEA supports countries through specialized technical and development competencies of nuclear applications to the achievement of some nine (9) specific SDGs.

During the last six decades, Pakistan has built its capabilities in the peaceful use of nuclear technology and has expanded its usage in the fields of health (specifically cancer care), clean energy, agriculture, industrial applications and environmental protection. Its technical cooperation with IAEA is manifested through the work of its specialized agencies like research centres, cancer hospitals, power and research reactors and education and training institutes. Pakistan-TC partnership has remained consistent in formulating real-time research and development solutions and capacity building. Ongoing projects in this partnership include enhancing and strengthening Pakistan's national capabilities in climate resistant crops, animal productivity, soil management, water and nutrient resources using nuclear related techniques.

PAEC has so far developed 132 crops varieties through use of state-of-the-art nuclear technology under institutions like Nuclear Institute of Agriculture (NIA), Nuclear Institute for Food and Agriculture (NIFA), National Institute for Biotechnology and Genetic Engineering (NIBGE) and Nuclear Institute for Agriculture and Biology (NIAB). These institutes are involved in innovative use of nuclear techniques in agricultural production through research in soil fertility, disease resistant and time efficient crop varieties, insect and pest control, chemical pollution, animal health and food preservation. In the face of growing threat of food security, the work of these institutes will pave the way to provide better options to the lives and necessities of Pakistan's population.

In the way of achieving the goal of 'good health', nuclear medicine is playing an integral role. Specifically, in Pakistan, 19 cancer hospitals across the country have been established by Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission (PAEC), providing sizable support to most advanced treatment and care to its patients. State-of-the-art treatment is provided in these facilities including, SPECT-CT, PET-CT, Medical LINAC, IGRT, IMRT, VMAT and Cyber-knife. Furthermore, Pakistan, by dint of the IAEA's TC programme continues to maintain upgradation and capacity building of its work force in cancer care which contributes towards cancer treatment and prevention.

The goal of 'affordable and clean energy' in Pakistan is envisioned through inclusion of 8800 MW electricity by 2030 through the use of nuclear power. There are currently 06 operational nuclear power plants in Pakistan which are contributing towards clean, reliable and sustainable energy, necessary for continued socio-economic development of the country. Each one of these power plants is operating under the umbrella of IAEA safeguards, thereby ensuring its safe and sustainable operations.

Education is the key as it holds the way to acquisition of necessary skills and capabilities for the achievement of any sustainable goal for development. In the context of addressing the goal of 'quality education' and 'industry, innovation and infrastructure', Pakistan has focused its efforts on building strong institutions. IAEA has also focused its efforts on seeking gender parity and supports in increasing opportunities for women to participate in the nuclear field, leading to the approach of an inclusive workforce. IAEA's Marie Curie Fellowship Programme aims at inspiring and supporting young women to pursue a career in the field of nuclear science and technology. Pakistan, in support of this initiative, has provided scholarships for female students enabling them to complete a funded Master's degree at Pakistan Institute of Engineering and Applied Sciences (PIEAS).

Pakistan Institute of Nuclear Science & Technology (PINSTECH), Pakistan Institute of Engineering and Applied Sciences (PIEAS), National Institute of Safety and Security (NISAS), Karachi Institute of Power Engineering (KINPOE) and CHASNUPP Centre of Nuclear Training (CHASCENT) are established for a long-term and systematic human-resource building and expert-level education. Furthermore, PIEAS and NISAS are also designated as a part of IAEA Collaborating Centres for education and training in advanced and innovative nuclear technologies and nuclear security education, training and technical support. Being a part of IAEA collaborating centres network, these institutes contribute to IAEA's goal of promoting practical use of nuclear techniques worldwide and help in implementation of its own programmatic activities.

Following the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic, IAEA has raised international concerns to the potential dangers associated with zoonotic diseases. IAEA facilitated Member States and in case of Pakistan provided real-time PCR machines for time-sensitive detection during the height of its spread. In order to find new solutions to this threat using nuclear techniques, IAEA's Zoonotic Disease Integrated Action (ZODIAC) initiative aims to facilitate early detection and prevention of future Zoonotic outbreaks. Pakistan is also striving to contribute to the success of this initiative through its laboratories established at NIAB and NIBGE.

Pakistan understands the potential value of nuclear technology in the socio-economic development. Nuclear technology can further make remarkable contribution for the well-being of people and the environment. It has remained cognizant of IAEA's specialized work and continues to commit to a long-term partnership for the joint goals of advancement of peaceful uses of nuclear science and technology for the betterment of humanity and their commitment to UN SDGs. – The writer is PhD scholar at School of Politics and International Relations (SPIR), Quaid-i-Azam University Islamabad.

A PARTNERSHIP FOR PEACE, PROGRESS AND PROSPERITY

By: Syed Muhammad Irteza Imam

Pakistan is amongst the founding members of International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). The agency was setup as a global promoter and monitor for the peaceful applications of nuclear science and technology. Over the years, IAEA has helped its Members States in applying nuclear sciences for the betterment of mankind and improving the lives of millions through reliable power generation, higher production of food, advanced healthcare techniques and much more.

Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission (PAEC) is leading the application of nuclear science and technology in Pakistan. IAEA and PAEC have benefited immensely from each other's experiences. PAEC has also helped other IAEA Member States in the fields of agriculture and biotechnology, medicine and nuclear education.

In the COVID-19 pandemic and the resultant social and economic pandemonium, PAEC provided the country with all means available to it to combat this disease. This effort to contain the spread of the disease was actively supported by IAEA through the provision of Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) machine, biohazard safety cabinets, test kits and related paraphernalia to help contain the pandemic through the use of nuclear derived techniques.

The equipment was placed in PAEC General Hospital in Islamabad and extended testing facilities not only to PAEC employees but also the general public, at large. PAEC General Hospital in Islamabad was also configured in record time to handle and operate all aspects of pandemic control from testing, treatment and post-treatment follow-ups. Due to a combination of preventive measures, vast scale testing and treatment, the hospital played a pivotal role in the early detection and hence the curtailing of COVID-19 in Pakistan.

IAEA and PAEC also benefit from each other's experience in application of nuclear technology and techniques in the medical sphere. The most prominent among these collaborations is fight against cancer. PAEC operates nineteen (19) cancer hospitals around the country with another under construction in Muzaffarabad. Nuclear technologies and techniques such as radiography and radiotherapy are essential for the detection and treatment of cancer patients. PAEC is also capable of training manpower in the application of nuclear technology for cancer control and treatment.

The avenues of IAEA-PAEC cooperation are vast. Over the years, IAEA has helped PAEC in training its human resource in various different fields of nuclear science and technology. This, in turn, favours other IAEA Member States as Pakistan trains their personnel. In 2019, IAEA signed a cooperation agreement with Pakistan and designated Pakistan Institute of Engineering and Applied Sciences (PIEAS) as a Collaborating Centre to support Member States on research, development and capacity building in the application of advanced and innovative nuclear technologies.

PAEC, through its four agriculture centres namely Nuclear Institute for Food and Agriculture (NIFA-Peshawar), Nuclear Institute of Agriculture (NIA-Tando Jam), National Institute for Biotechnology and Genetic Engineering (NIBGE-Faisalabad) and Nuclear Institute for Agriculture and Biology (NIAB-Faisalabad) has not only been successful in developing one hundred and thirty two (132) varieties of cash crops and pulses but also in imparting trainings to scientists from other countries in an effort to ensure food and thus human security. These exchanges are arranged in coordination with IAEA in order to spread the experience and knowledge gained by the research and development work of these centres.

Further to the IAEA's COVID-19 response, the Zoonotic Disease Integrated Action (ZODIAC) initiative was established in June 2020 to help countries prevent pandemics caused by bacteria, parasites, fungi or viruses that originate in animals and can be transmitted to humans. Using a systematic and integrated approach, ZODIAC will strengthen the preparedness and capabilities of Member States to rapidly detect and timely respond to outbreaks of such diseases.

Under ZODIAC, veterinary and public health officials from Member States can benefit from joint research and development activities and from expert guidance as well as from the technical, scientific and laboratory support of the IAEA and its partners. This includes access to coordinated joint research, training, know-how, expertise and technology packages to enhance pathogen surveillance and disease diagnostics, along with prevention and response actions. Furthermore, it will provide access to scientific and diagnostic data and a decision-making support system that can enable authorities to take timely science- and results-based decisions.

In line with IAEA's ZODIAC initiative, PAEC has recently established a ZODIAC laboratory at NIAB Faisalabad.

The partnership between IAEA and PAEC is not just confined to technical issues but rather extends to undertaking various political and administrative steps to ensure safety, security and efficient use of nuclear technology. These include several steps such as placing all of Pakistan's civil nuclear reactors under stringent IAEA Safeguards.

Both PAEC and IAEA are working together to create opportunities that ensure possibilities of applying nuclear technologies to human security through reliable, safe and carbon free energy, food security through crops that are resistant to pests, climate changes and require less water and by using radiological sciences to detect and treat deadly diseases such as cancer. All these efforts combined would ensure peace, progress and prosperity not only for Pakistan but also for other Member States of IAEA, in particular, and the humanity, in general. – The writer is a graduate from QAU, Islamabad.



H.E. Rafael Mariano Grossi, DG IAEA

Welcome to Pakistan

65 years of Pakistan - IAEA Collaboration

Striving together to achieve SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



Young PAEC Agriculture Scientist Awardee with DG IAEA



Chairman PAEC with DG IAEA

By

Introducing over **132** Crop Varieties through **4** **Agriculture & Biotechnology** Centres



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Ensuring diagnosis & treatment of Cancer through **19 Atomic Energy Cancer Hospitals**



Developing **Human Resource** through Top Ranking Engineering University **PIEAS, KINPOE & CHASCENT**



Sustaining Indigenous **Engineering** Support through **Multiple Centres** nation-wide



Promoting **Research & Development** through **state of the art Institutes**



Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission
Committed to Serve the Nation

BATA Pakistan wins 5th PFMA Cricket Gala 2023

Sports Desk

LAHORE: The 5th edition of the Pakistan Footwear Manufacturers Association (PFMA) Cricket Mela was held over the weekend at the DHA Sports Complex Phase-VI in Lahore, and it was a triumph for BATA Pakistan who emerged as the champions of the tournament.

The two-day event saw eight teams competing in a tape-ball cricket tournament, with matches lasting six overs each side, while semi-final and final were eight over a side matches. The tournament was a showcase of the talent, passion, and commitment of the participating teams, and it was a testament to the love of the game in Pakistan.

The closing ceremony was graced as Chief Guest by the presence of Salman Butt, a former captain of the Pakistan Cricket Team, who appreciated the teams for their performance and praised their dedication to the sport. He also commended the PFMA for organizing such an event, and for their efforts in promoting the sport.

The Chairman of PFMA, Mansoor Ehsan, lauded the team spirit displayed by the players during the tournament.



He said that such events are a sign of a healthy society and emphasized the importance of promoting sports and physical activity in the country.

The tournament was a fun-filled activity, which saw a large turnout of spectators who came to support their favorite teams. The matches were highly competitive, and the final match between BATA Pakistan and their opponents was a nail-biting affair that had the crowd on the edge of their seats most

of the time. But, in the end, BATA Pakistan emerged as the champions, much to the delight of their fans.

"The 5th PFMA Cricket Mela 2023 was a resounding success, and it once again highlighted the love and passion for the sport in Pakistan. The PFMA deserves credit for their efforts in organizing the tournament and for their commitment to promoting sports and physical activity in the country. The players, too, deserve praise for their talent

and dedication to the sport, and for providing the fans with a memorable experience." Chairman PFMA Mansoor Ehsan said.

He said that sports gala also served as a reminder of the importance of promoting sports and physical activity. "We hope that events like these will continue to be held in the future and that they will provide a platform for players to showcase their talent and for fans to enjoy the sport."

Lahore Qalandars secure nail-biting victory over Multan Sultan in PSL 8th opening match

Bureau Report

MULTAN: Defending champions Lahore Qalandars defeated Multan Sultans by one run in a nail-biting finish in the opening game of Pakistan Super League (PSL) eighth edition match played here, despite a handsome knock of 75 by host team captain Muhammad Rizwan before the home crowd on late Monday night.

Captain Multan Sultans Muhammad Rizwan elected to bowl after winning the toss and Qalandars put on a good total of 175, thanks to a marvellous fifty (66) by Fakhar Zaman.

However, Multan Sultans fell a single run short of the target set by Qalandars and could score 174 after losing six wickets in 20 overs.

Fakhar Zaman and Tahir Baig opened the innings for Lahore Qalandars, however, Baig lost his wickets at individual score of 32 when the



total score reached 61.

Fakhar Zaman demonstrated good stroke play and scored 66, tournament's first fifty that won him the game for his side and the player of the match award. He fell victim to Multan Sultans' bowler Osama Mir. Other contributors from Lahore included Shai Hope (19), Hussain Talat (20), and Sikandar Raza (19).

Osama Mir and Ehsanullah claimed two wickets each

while Shah Nawaz Dahani and Aqeel Hussain finished with one wicket each.

Chasing a target of 176, opener Muhammad Rizwan and Shan Masood batted confidently and took the score to 100, the point where Multan Sultans suffered their first shock with dismissal of Shan (35).

Rizwan, however, continued to bat and kept the hope of victory alive for Multan Sultans before the home

crowd.

However, at the individual score of 75, he was bowled by the rival team's captain Shaheen Shah Afridi. From then on, Qalandars' bowlers did not let any Multan batsman settle and sent them back to the pavilion one by one in shorter intervals till the completion of allotted 20 overs. Other significant contributors from Multan included David Miller who scored 25 and Pollard contributed 20.

Shaheen Afridi, Hussain Talat, Zaman Khan and Harif Rauf claimed one wicket each.

Earlier, before the opening match, Lahore Qalandars paid tribute to police martyrs and presented them a salute for the sacrifices they rendered to secure peace in society.

They also met with the family members of the police martyrs at the stadium.

Mahatir shines in ITF World Junior Tennis C'ships

Sports Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Mahatir Muhammad of Pakistan was the only Pakistani, who registered victory in the pre-quarterfinal stage of the boys' singles of ITF Pakistan PPL-S. Dilawar Abbas World Junior Tennis Championships Leg-2 at PTF-SDA Tennis Complex Islamabad on Tuesday.

Mahatir lost the first set to compatriot Nadir Mirza 1-6, but fought back to take the next two sets 6-4, 6-3 and emerge triumphant.

In other pre-quarterfinal matches, Turkey's Bugra Ozkoc beat Boda Zheng of China 0-6, 6-3, 6-0, while Dogan Can Sipahioğlu of Turkey's defeated Mikhail Khodorchenko Russia 4-6, 7-3(3), 6-3. Canada's Edward Kruppe outclassed Pakistan's Bilal Asim 6-3, 4-6, 6-2, whereas Kamonpanyakorn Thadpong of Thailand overpowered Pakistan's M. Huzaifa Khan 6-2, 7-6(3).

Similarly, Cem Atlamis of Turkey saw off Huzaima Abdul Rehman of Pakistan 4-6, 6-0, 6-1, and Yuan Lu of China edged passed Malaysia's Keagan Jonathan 6-3, 6-1.

In girls singles pre-quarterfinals, Yejun Lee of Korea trounced Kazakhstan's Taira Abildyeva 6-0, 6-3, while Phitcayapak Srimuk of Thailand's Seen Baeg of Korea 0-6, 6-3, 7-5 and Zeynep Erbakan of Turkey outwitted Anastasiya Kim of Kazakhstan 6-1, 6-2.

Sports can win hearts, Glenn

Sports Desk

KARACHI: Glenn Cundari, head coach of International Special Olympic Canada, has said that sports connect hearts, it is not just a game to win a medal, but through sports, the importance of the society, especially the special people of the society, and keeping them together is the real thing.

He expressed these thoughts at the ceremony organized in his honour by Special Olympics Pakistan Chairperson Ronak Lakhani before leaving for Canada after completing the four-day National Coaches Seminar held in Karachi.

Speaking on this occasion, there were other personalities related to sports including Pakistan Olympic Environment Commission member Tahmina



Asif, SOP National Director Taha Tahir, Sports Director Farkhanda Jabeen and Consultant Communication Saif Azhar.

"I have tried my best to pass on my experience to the young coaches of Pakistan who I have found to be full of

talent. If done, Pakistan's special players can soon be included in the list of the best players in the world. I felt very happy to see the interest of women in the seminar", Glenn Cundari said and added that I have enjoyed the traditional

cuisine of Karachi, I have had the opportunity to visit the shopping centres here and have done some shopping as well. I will consider it an honour to come to Pakistan again. I would like to thank Lakhani and his entire team", he said.

On this occasion, Ronak Lakhani said that this seminar is a milestone for our coaches, in which the coaches associated with various sports are not only aware of the modern techniques and rules and regulations of the games. "Thanks to Glenn Cundari, Ronak Lakhani, said that the experience he has imparted to our coaches will be our speciality in the future. It will prove to be an asset for the training of athletes", added.

On this occasion, Ronak Lakhani along with Tehmina Asif presented souvenirs and gifts to Glen Cundari on behalf of Special Olympics Pakistan.

Security measures for PSL, other events discussed

Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: Law enforcers on Tuesday planned security measures in the capital, especially for upcoming cricket matches of Pakistan Super League (PSL) and Women Premier League.

The security-related issues were discussed in the second high-level joint security coordination meeting held at Safe City Islamabad. Inspector General of Police (IGP) Islamabad, Commissioner Rawalpindi, DG Rangers, RPO Rawalpindi, officers of the Pakistan Army and other officers were present.

The meeting reviewed all the security arrangements of the twin cities, Pakistan Super League and Women Premier League.

It was decided in the meeting that



during the matches, information would be exchanged and complete coordination would be ensured among all law enforcement agencies while the route would be monitored through CCTV cameras and smart cars during PSL matches.

All cameras should be equipped with thermal imaging capability, and all players and guests associated with matches would be provided security on a modern technical basis.

It was decided that all law enforcement agencies would conduct joint security visits and traffic plans to be issued in advance to ensure traffic flow during the movement of players so that citizens did not face any kind of inconvenience.

During the meeting, it was decided that the security of citizens as well as foreigners would be ensured on a priority basis, for which the security at the entry and exit points of the twin cities would be made more effective.

All law enforcement agencies will conduct joint operations and share data.

It was decided that security coordination meetings would be held on a daily basis during the PSL event, besides all these security measures as well as the regular work of the police will not be affected.

Abbottabad, Peshawar victorious in National Physical Disability T20 Cricket C'ship

Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: Abbottabad and Peshawar earned victories in the 8th National Physical Disability T20 Cricket Championship at the Bhutto Ground on Tuesday.

Abbottabad beat Lahore by 68 runs while Peshawar defeated Islamabad by 7 wickets, in the ongoing National Championship organized by Pakistan Physical Disability Cricket Association. Abbottabad defeated Lahore by 68 in the match.

Batting first, Abbottabad scored 194 runs for four wickets in the allotted 20 overs. Humayun scored 73 runs off 43

balls with the help of 9 fours and three sixes, while Khan scored 43 runs with the help of four fours and one six, Faisal Hayat added 28 runs. For Lahore, Abdullah Ejaz and Shahid Vito took two wickets, in response, Lahore was bundled out for 126 runs in 18.3 overs.

Chief guest Regional Head Peshawar Sajid Khan gave Humayun a cash award along with a trophy for Man of the Match.

In the second match, Peshawar defeated Islamabad by 7 wickets. Islamabad was bowled out for 119 runs while playing first, Mohammad Haroon scored 36 runs and Mohammad Naem scored 30 runs on its behalf.

For Peshawar, Momin took 3 wickets for 19 runs while Atif dismissed two players for 13 runs. In reply, Peshawar achieved the target for the loss of three wickets in 16.3 overs. Wajid Alam scored 49 runs off 36 balls including five fours and two sixes. Rahmat hit three fours and a six in 36 runs, captain Nihar Alam scored 29 runs. Mohammad Naem took three wickets.

PPDCA General Secretary and Tournament Director Ameeruddin Ansari gave Momin a trophy and cash award as Man of the Match.

On February 15 (Wednesday), Abbottabad would face Peshawar, while Lahore will face Islamabad.

21st Asian Junior Team Squash Championship 2023

Sports Desk

LAHORE: Director General Sports Punjab Muhammad Tariq Qureshi felicitated Pakistan squash team on defeating India in the final of 21st Asian Junior Team Squash Championship 2023 in Indian city Chennai the other day.

In his greeting message, Director General Sports Punjab Muhammad Tariq Qureshi praised the wonderful performance of talented duo of Noor Zaman and Hamza Khan, who helped Pakistan emerge victorious against their arch-rivals India by a big margin of 2-0.

Director General Sports Punjab Muhammad Tariq Qureshi said that Pakistan junior squash team has made the entire nation proud with its exceptional gold medal winning performance against India. He expressed his hope that Pakistan squash team will maintain the title winning performance in their future international squash competitions.

PSL: Sarfaraz pinning hopes on 'experienced' Hafeez, Iftikhar in clash against Multan Sultan

Bureau Report

MULTAN: Quetta Gladiators captain Sarfaraz Ahmed is pinning hopes on Muhammad Hafeez and Iftikhar Ahmed in a match against Multan Sultan in Pakistan Super League (PSL) eighth edition, to be played tomorrow in Multan Cricket Stadium.

Addressing a news conference, here on Tuesday, after holding a practice session, Sarfaraz credited Hafeez as an experienced T-20 player who had "strengthened" the team's prospects after the former test cricketer joined the Quetta Gladiators.

He recalled that Hafeez was declared man of the match in the PSL final of the 7th edition, adding that Iftikhar Ahmed had been in tremendous form since the last nine months of the T-20 cricket.

Sarfaraz hoped that the crowd would get a thrilling match against Multan Sultan, also adding his team was prepared to contest in their first match.

PSL 2023: Imad Wasim's 80 in vain as Peshawar Zalmi beat Karachi Kings



KARACHI: Peshawar Zalmi defeated Karachi Kings Tuesday by two runs during the second match of the Pakistan Super League's (PSL) eighth edition at the National Bank Cricket Arena in Karachi.

Put to bat first, Peshawar posted a massive 199 runs on the scoreboard before restricting the home side to 197-5 in 20 overs, thanks to Cadmore's magnificent knock and a brilliant bowling display by the bowlers.

Skipper Imad Wasim and Shoaib Malik shined as Karachi made a comeback.

However, Khurram rose to the occasion and repaid his captain Babar's trust by bowling a magnificent last over to win the game for his side.

In the last over, needing 16 off six balls, Khurram started off with a well-placed wide yorker, giving away one run.

The second ball was also an almost flawless yorker, which also cost a run.

Khurram bowled a no-ball on the third delivery but delivered a good one on the free hit. The right-arm bowler held his composure to bowl the next two deliveries in good areas to defend the total and not let Imad and Ben Cutting reach the total.

All-rounder Imad fought hard and scored an unbeaten 80 runs off 47 balls, including seven boundaries and four maximums.

Imad and Malik had put on a 131-run partnership to stage Karachi's comeback after Peshawar Zalmi's bowlers shined as they toppled the opponents' top order.

The home side lost their first wicket as Sharjeel Khan fell prey to the former skipper of the Yellow Storm, Wahab Riaz.

Later, Jimmy Neesham sent Australian batter Matthew Wade (23) and Pakistan's young all-rounder Qasim Akram (7) back to the pavilion. Meanwhile, Salman Irshad got a wicket on his first ball as he got the wicket of Haider Ali, who scored 12 runs off 10 balls.

After losing four wickets, skipper Imad Wasim and veteran all-rounder Shoaib Malik led the chase for Karachi, putting on a stellar partnership.

In the 17th over, Wahab Riaz had the chance to send Malik packing but he dropped the catch off Neesham.

However, Wahab got the better of Malik in the penultimate over as the all-rounder was caught-behind off the veteran bowler following completing his half-century.

Wahab was unlucky on the last ball of his over as he bowled a no-ball, which got Ben Cutting out. The Australian batter had to stay at the crease but the left-arm pacer made a great comeback on the free-hit delivery with a wide yorker.