



**Work on gas projects 'closed by PTI' resumed: Amir Muqam**

Adviser to the Prime Minister Engr Amir Muqam, here on Sunday, said that work on the gas projects approved by Pakistan Muslim League's (Nawaz) government till 2018 had been resumed here after it was shut down by the PTI government. Engr Amir Muqam was addressing various public gatherings at Tuligram, Aseer, Alabad, Gulibag, Alamgunj, Khwazakhela, Bandai and Gaskor in Swat.



**CM Bizenjo lauds efforts of Rubaba, Law Dept's officials for compiling laws of 209 years**

Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Abdul Quddus Bizenjo on Sunday congratulated the Parliamentary Secretary Law and Parliamentary Affairs Dr. Rubaba Buledi and the officers of the department for compiling all laws of 209 years of history from 1812 to 2021 on behalf of the Law Department of Balochistan.

Simultaneously published from Islamabad, Lahore and Multan

**Meeting**

LAHORE: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif chairs a review meeting on Pakistan Kidney and Liver Institute on Sunday.



Photo: PID

**PM Shehbaz reviews facilities for poor patients at PKLI**

**Spokesman Report**

LAHORE: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Sunday chaired a meeting to review the facilities for modern and free medical treatment to poor people at Pakistan Kidney and Liver Institute (PKLI), here.

While talking to the participants of the meeting, the PM said the Hepatitis Prevention and Treatment Programme earlier initiated by PKLI should be immediately handed over to the institute again.

He said the focus should be on reforming the system for free-of-charge treatment to poor people in the PKLI and

50 per cent of patients should be provided free treatment.

He directed that a fund should be instituted for the free-of-charge treatment of needy patients and an amount should be allocated for this purpose.

Chairman Board of Governors of PKLI Dr Saeed Akhtar

briefed the prime minister about the performance of the institute.

It was told that work was being done to enhance the capacity of PKLI for carrying out complicated surgeries. The meeting was also apprised that at present 41 per cent of the patients were being treated

without any charges, and more than 95 per cent of the patients were successfully treated.

Caretaker Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Raza Naqvi, Chief Secretary Punjab Zahid Akhtar Zaman, Secretary Health Punjab Ahmed Javed Qazi, Mujeebur Rehman Shami, and others attended the meeting.

**Bilawal meets leaders at Munich Security Conference**

**News Desk**

MUNICH: Minister for Foreign Affairs Bilawal Bhutto Zardari Saturday held meetings with foreign ministers and leaders of different countries at the Munich Security Council in Germany and discussed matters of mutual interest.

The minister met his Saudi counterpart Faisal Bin Farhan Al Saud and the two pledged to increase cooperation of their countries in diverse fields.

Bilawal said Pakistan highly valued its brotherly relations

with Saudi Arabia. He also held a meeting with Foreign Minister of Finland Pekka Haavisto.

The two sides agreed to take forward relations in sectors of education, trade and climate change.

Bilawal welcomed the decision of Finland to re-open its embassy in Islamabad.

The minister met with Vice President and Foreign Minister of Jordan Ayman Al Safadi and they agreed to expand bilateral ties and high level contacts between Pakistan and Jordan.



He also met with Foreign Minister of Malta Dr Ian Borg

and they expressed determination to promote relations in

areas of information technology, health, tourism and start ups through the Joint Technical Commission.

He had a meeting with chief of International Crisis Group Dr Comfort Ero and they concurred to adopt a coordinated strategy to resolve issues facing the humanity.

The minister also held discussions with US Senator Lindsey Graham and other members of the Congress and they talked about issues of climate change and the challenges faced by humanity.

**MQM-P boycotts NA by-polls**

**Bureau Report**

KARACHI: Muttahida Qaumi Movement-Pakistan (MQM-P) on Sunday decided against participating in the National Assembly (NA) by-polls set to be held on 33 NA seats vacated earlier by the PTI MNA's.

The decision was taken on account of the ongoing economic situation of the country at a party meeting chaired by Nasreen Jalil.

Earlier, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif had requested the MQM-P to not participate in the by-polls. The contestants of the PML-N and the PPP have already withdrawn their nomination papers for the polls.

**PML-N in field with full preparations to contest elections: Maryam Nawaz**

**Naveed Ahmad Khan**

RAWALPINDI: Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) senior vice president Maryam Nawaz lambasted Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan, saying no one will save the latter from arrest if Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah decided.

Addressing a convention, Ms Nawaz heaped praise on PML-N supremo Nawaz Sharif, saying, "Nawaz has an old habit of solving all the problems, created by others."

Lashing out at PTI Chairman Imran Khan, she said, "Imran is reluctant to present himself before the court by making excuses for his injury." She added that the foreign funding case in connection with the deposed premier was based on reality.

He reminded the PML-N supporters of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's all-out efforts, saying the premier was trying his level best to take the country out of a quagmire.

She praised the PML-N workers, saying, "The PML-N workers have left no stone unturned to show their courage."

On Sunday, Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah claimed on Sunday the government would counter Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chief



Imran Khan's 'Jail Bharo Tehreek' in a way no one could imagine.

Addressing the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) organization convention, he said that on one side Mr Khan had announced the movement while on the other hand, he had called the party's female workers to the roads to defend himself against his [possible] arrest. "You [Mr Khan] start the movement once and see how we respond", he added. The government, he said, would not stuff the jails with people Mr Khan had misguided but it would put the PTI workers behind bars who wanted to spread anarchy in the country.

He said the Imran group had been trying for the last seven months to push the country

to the brink of default adding the PML-N had been trying to steer the country out of crises instead. "The PML-N and Nawaz Sharif pushed the country out of quagmire when needed", he added. Mr Khan, he said, pushed President Dr Arif Alvi to refrain from assenting to the [mini-budget] ordinance so that it might delay the IMF program.

Commenting on the general elections in the country, he said that transparent elections could be held only if a single interim government were present in the country. "The constitution binds to hold elections within 90 days after the dissolution of assembly but it binds so under the supervision of caretaker setup to ensure transparency", he added. Elections, he said, would continue for the whole year if they were held separately for the National Assembly and provincial assemblies.

He said it would allow the Imran group to float rigging as he would contend that the PML-N was in power in the federation and its allies were ruling Sindh and Balochistan. "Then he will push the country toward anarchy as he is always ready to do that", he added. Mr Khan employed different tactics, he said, such as long marches, rallies, and protests to fuel instability in the country.

**Imran ridiculing judiciary to get bail through bullying: Marriyum**

**City Reporter**

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Information and Broadcasting Marriyum Aurangzeb said on Sunday that Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf Chairman Imran Khan was ridiculing and making mockery of the judiciary which was unprecedented.

In a statement, the minister said that Imran Khan used abusive language every day and threatened judiciary to get bail through bullying.

She said that PML-N was

now running a campaign to expose Imran and his facilitators.

She said her party was now only campaigning against those who were damaging national economy and making people unemployed.

The minister said that the PML-N was now only campaigning against foreign agents and "ToshaKhan-athiefs".

"PML-N is now only campaigning against those who are conspiring against the country", she remarked.

**Imran urges judiciary to take notice of audio leaks**

**Bureau Report**

LAHORE: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan urged on Sunday the judiciary to take notice against the audio leaks, saying taping conversation was a violation of basic rights.

Addressing a speech via video link flanked by Ms Rashid, Mr Khan stressed the need for the implementation of the law in connection with the leaked audio tapes, saying, "There exists a law in the country regarding the audio tape."

Lamenting that Ms Rashid audio tape was leaked, Mr Khan said as per the law, nobody's audio could be recorded, adding merely on the court's order, audio could be recorded.

Mr Khan recalled four months ago, the petition was filed in the Supreme Court (SC) regarding the audio tape.

Meanwhile, Ms Rashid lamented the evidence regarding the assassination attempt on Mr Khan was not being presented.

She said, "The former CCPO was the JIT's convener over the assassination attempt on the PTI chief. The PDM had disappeared along with the evidence in connection with the Wazirabad incident". Ms Yasmin said, "As per the Fair Trial Act, nobody's phone could be taped."

On Sunday, PTI chairman said the PTI and its workers



would defend the sanctity of judiciary at any cost.

The former prime minister held a meeting with PTI leader Shahbaz Gill, in which the two discussed the political situation of the country and the party's course of action. Mr Khan underscored the dire need for elections, saying the country had been going through an economic turmoil and the delay in elections was a violation of the constitution. "The imported government has been targeting the judiciary to hide the violation of constitution on their account," said PTI chairman.

Mr Khan criticised the government for "creating further difficulties for people by putting an end to public welfare projects including the health card service". He said they [the rulers] cannot even face the public after the record breaking inflation as the poor were facing severe economic hardships.

Shahbaz Gill said the party workers stand with the PTI's ideology. He said, "I request to give at least ten per cent tickets to ideological youth of the party from youth wing, ISF, and social media wing in the upcoming election."

**ECP excuses itself from consulting president over Punjab, KP elections**

**City Reporter**

ISLAMABAD: The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) has excused itself from consulting President Arif Alvi over provincial assembly elections as the matter was in court.

Secretary Election Commission, in its letter, maintained that after the dissolution of the Punjab and KP assemblies, the governors were approached for the election dates as per the Constitution. It added that while the governors have responded to the letters sent by the ECP, neither has thus far announced a date for the polls.

In compliance with the Lahore High Court (LHC) orders, the commission said, a consultation was held with the Punjab governor on February 14, but he "regretted to appoint a poll date and informed that he would avail legal remedy against the judgment of the LHC as it was not binding on

him".

"It is clarified that the Constitution does not empower the ECP to appoint a poll date in case of the dissolution of a provincial assembly by the governor or due to afflux of time as provided in Article 112(1) of the Constitution," the letter highlighted.

The ECP also made mention of the intra-court appeals it has filed against the order as it was asked by the LHC to hold the consultation without any such provisions having been provided in the Constitution, alongside other writ petitions presently pending in the Peshawar High Court.

It merits mention that President Alvi on Friday had invited Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Sikandar Sultan Raja for an 'urgent meeting' on February 20 for consultations on the dates for the polls in Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa (KP) and Punjab.

## Protest

KARACHI: Activists of Jamaat-e-Islami, shouting slogans during protest against inflation at M. A. Jinnah Road in Provincial Capital.



Photo: Online

# PM for more coordination over relief assistance to Turkiye, Syria

## Bureau Report

LAHORE: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Sunday said that for the purpose of coordination, all relief assistance to the earthquake-affected people of Turkiye and Syria should be dispatched through National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA).

The prime minister lauded the humanitarian and charity organizations for their ongoing relief work in the quake-hit areas of Turkiye and said that Pakistani humanitarian organizations were in the forefront to support their affected brethren and sisters in these countries.

The prime minister was chairing a high-level meeting to review the ongoing relief activities on part of Pakistan, in the quake hit Turkiye and Syria.

The meeting was attended by representatives of Edhi,



Saylani and Al-Khidmat Foundation, Minister for Planning Ahsan Iqbal, PM's Special Assistant Syed Tariq Fatemi, ambassadors of Pakistan to Turkiye and Syria and other high officials, PM Office Media Wing said in a press release.

The prime minister, during the meeting, observed that relief assistance to these countries should be sent in accordance with the requirements of

the earthquake-affected people and stressed upon ensuring of quality relief goods.

The prime minister also constituted a sub-committee to be headed by the minister for planning. The committee would be tasked to share information among the government and humanitarian organizations over the dispatch of relief goods.

The prime minister said

through exchange of real-time information, the quake victims of Turkiye and Syria could be supported in a well-organized manner.

The meeting was apprised of the details of the relief assistance sent to these two countries through NDMA.

Chairman NDMA Lieutenant General Inam Haider Malik informed the meeting that under prime minister's previous

directive, the cost and preparation time for tents had been decided in consultation with the tent manufacturing industries.

By the end of next month, the government of Pakistan would send 1,00,000 winterized tents to Turkiye. These tents were being prepared keeping in view the weather requirements and in consultation with the Turkish Disaster and Emergency Management Presidency (AFAD).

Faisal Edhi of Edhi Foundation, Maulana Bashir Farooqi of Saylani Trust and Abdul Shakoor of Al Khidmat Foundation briefed the meeting about the details of relief consignments sent to the quake-affected countries which included tents, medicines, edible items, blankets and warm clothes. Besides, medical teams had also been sent to these countries.

# Quarter of world's population at risk of floods, UN General Assembly president

## News Desk

UNITED NATIONS: Some 1.8 billion people on the planet are threatened by flood risks, the United Nations General Assembly President, Csaba Korosi, warned on Saturday, at a water management event in Tokyo, Japan.

"This is a challenge that we can master with ingenuity and determination," he said, while calling for science-based solutions and solidarity, as he delivered a keynote speech at the high-level symposium on "Integrated Water Cycle Management in the post-COVID-19 era," accord-



ing to a press release issued at UN Headquarters in New York.

In Pakistan, last August's record-breaking floods killed

over 1,700 people and 1.2 million livestock, with 33 million displaced.

In his remarks, the General Assembly president said

when the UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) were crafted, the full magnitude of climate change impacts through droughts and floods was not yet prominent enough to allow for factoring explicit flood and drought-related indicators into SDG6, the Goal related to water and sanitation.

He compared the current challenge to that of the ill-fated Apollo 13 moon mission that managed to return to Earth after encountering a disastrous mechanical problem. "In 1970, ingenuity and determined action brought the astronauts back to earth alive," he said, stressing that

it will take the same kind of resolve to cope with flood risks.

Besides climate change-induced threats, Korosi pointed out that poor flood protection and management, and reckless land use are also driving disaster risks.

Calling for solutions based on resilience, sustainability and inclusiveness, he stressed the essential need to strengthen transnational alliances, such as the UN Water Convention of 1992, which is managed by the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) and reiterated his calls for a global water information system.

## Two Nigerians held for online fraud

## Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: The Federal Investigation Agency's (FIA) Cybercrime Wing on Sunday arrested two Nigerian nationals for committing online fraud.

According to a spokesperson, the foreign nationals were arrested by FIA Cybercrime Wing of Quetta after a complaint was filed against them.

The spokesperson noted that two Nigerians convinced him that they desired to send him mobile phone and \$10,000 as a gift. The foreigners took Rs419,500 as customs clearance charges, parcel registration charges, and taxes.

# WAPDA achieves major milestone as River Indus diverted

## News Desk

ISLAMABAD: The under-construction Dasu Hydropower Project crossed a major milestone the other day, as the mighty River Indus was successfully diverted following completion of one of the two diversion tunnels.

Instead of its natural course, the River Indus was now flowing through a 1.33 kilometer (km) long diversion tunnel with 20 meters (m) width and 23m height, said a press release.

Consequently, construction activities have been initiated on the starter dam, leading toward the construction of

the main dam of Dasu Hydropower Project.

General Manager and Project Director Dasu Hydropower Project, representatives of the Contractors and the Consultants along with a number of engineers and workers witnessed the historic moment of River Indus diversion.

Meanwhile, WAPDA Chairman Engr Lt Gen. Sajjad Ghani (Retd) congratulated the project team on achieving this landmark.

The diversion system of Dasu Hydropower Project comprises two tunnels – tunnel A and tunnel B. Of these, tunnel B is complete,

which has the discharge capacity, sufficient to divert water of River Indus during the current lean-flows season, the press release says.

The 1.5 km long tunnel A, with 20m width and 23m height, will also be ready by mid-April this year to cater to the increased water flows during the high-flows season, it adds.

Dasu Hydropower Project is a vital component of the least-cost, green and clean energy generation plan of WAPDA. The project is being constructed across River Indus, upstream of Dasu town in Upper Kohistan district of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

The 4320 MW Dasu Hydropower Project is planned to be completed in two stages.

At present, WAPDA is constructing its stage-I with installed generation capacity of 2160 MW and annual energy generation of 12 billion units. Stage-I of the project is likely to start electricity generation in 2026.

The 2160 MW stage-II, when implemented, will also provide 9 billion units to the National Grid.

On completion of both stages, Dasu will become the project with the highest annual energy generation in Pakistan i.e., 21 billion units per annum on average.

# Mariyum rejects 'malevolent campaign' regarding post-earthquake assistance to Turkiye

## City Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Information and Broadcasting Mariyum Aurangzeb on Sunday categorically rejected a "malevolent campaign" regarding humanitarian assistance provided by Pakistan to Turkiye after the earthquake.

"We categorically reject the

orchestrated malevolent campaign by rogue elements who are spreading misleading and fabricated propaganda regarding post-earthquake humanitarian assistance to Turkiye," the minister said in a tweet.

She said such "shameful attempts" were designed to tarnish the country's international stature.

# Sheikh Rasheed urges President to announce election date or resign

## City Reporter

RAWALPINDI: Awami Muslim League (AML) chief and former interior minister Sheikh Rasheed on Sunday urged President Arif Alvi to announce the election date tomorrow (Monday) or resign from his office.

"As per the constitution, the president can give an election date," Sheikh Rasheed said while talking to media men in Lahore.

Sheikh Rasheed said Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz is yet unde-

ecided over contesting by-polls in Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. The former minister claimed that elections in the centre and provinces will be held at the same time.

"Only Supreme Court can save Pakistan after Allah," Sheikh Rasheed was quoted as saying. He said Pakistan has 'default', the confirmation was also made by Defence Minister Khawaja Asif.

Calling fresh elections in the country is the only solution to steer the country out of the present crises, he maintained.

# Maryam Nawaz running campaign against judiciary: Fawad Chaudhry

## Bureau Report

LAHORE: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) vice president Fawad Chaudhry has asserted that Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) chief organiser Maryam Nawaz was running a campaign against judiciary for 'personal gains'.

Talking to journalists in Lahore, the former information minister said that the media cell of Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) and Maryam Nawaz was running an anti-judiciary campaign to get desire results.

"The purpose of the anti-judiciary campaign is to take the judiciary to a

defensive position", Fawad Chaudhry said, adding that if the judiciary gives judgement against them, their cases will be restored and the purpose of regime change would fail.

Speaking of the elections, the former minister said that as per the Constitution, elections should be held within 90 days of dissolution of assemblies, adding that the Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) was 'running away' from elections.

"They [the incumbent rulers] are running a systematic campaign to impose martial law in the country," he claimed, adding that economic stability only possible through political instability.

# Governor Punjab pays rich tributes to Nawab of Bahawalpur

## News Desk

BAHAWALPUR: Punjab Governor Engineer Muhammad Baligh-Ur-Rahman has paid rich tributes to Nawab of Bahawalpur Sir Sadiq Muhammad Khan Abbasi (late) for his services for the cause of Pakistan and promotion of education.

Punjab Governor, who is also the chairman Board of Governors, Sadique Public School Bahawalpur, was addressing a ceremony held in connection to mark 69th foundation day of Sadiq Public School here in Bahawalpur.

Remembering services of Nawab of Bahawalpur, he said it was Nawab Sir Sadique Muhammad Khan Abbasi (late) who had a dynamic and visionary personality that played important role in promotion of education by establishing quality educational institutes in the then princely state of Bahawalpur.

"Establishment and functioning of

Sadique Public School in Bahawalpur is an evidence that Nawab Sir Sadiq Muhammad Khan Abbasi loved education and he played remarkable role for promotion of education," he said.

Recalling his memories, he said that he also got education at Sadique Public School Bahawalpur and added

that it was his responsibility to take necessary measures to equip youth with modern knowledge and skills. The Governor also emphasized the need to promote sports activities at educational institutions.

Later, he distributed gold medals, shields and prizes among around 150 students who got positions in different exams and activities at the school.

Commissioner Bahawalpur Division Dr Ahtasham Anwar, Acting Principal Sadique Public School Bahawalpur Mian Muhammad Ahmad, and other officials were also present.

# Graphene for Post-Moore Silicon Optoelectronics

## Spokesman Report

BEIJING: A young Pakistani Ph.D scholar along with a Chinese research group at Zhejiang University, Hnagzhou, China has co-authored a book titled Graphene for Post-Moore Silicon Optoelectronics.

Dr. Ali Imran, a researcher at the School of Micro and Nano Electronics of the University and his group are focusing on graphene-based Bio-inspired Neuromorphic vision sensors.

They are putting their effort into the fabrication of the artificial human eye retina, which cannot

distinguish the different colours, but can also see in the dark at night as well can directly look at the sun having high power ultraviolet rays.

These artificial eyes can be applied in particular intelligence, robotics, military vehicles, radars, Lidars, cameras, satellites, security, and facial recognition applications.

They have compiled the progress in this new research direction in their recently published book. The book is full of the latest information about Graphene and its application for Neuromorphic computation and machine vision for researchers and university teachers.

# Poor people life will become more miserable after mini budget, says Asad Qaiser

Correspondent

SWABI: Former Speaker National Assembly Asad Qaiser has said that imported government is imposing 170 Billion taxes on poor people. He said that PTI will hold rally against inflation at Swabi on 25th Feb, 2023. He said that poor people life will become more miserable after approval of mini budget. He expressed these views while addressing public gathering at Swabi today.



Former Speaker has said that JUIF and ANP has deceived nation by using religious and pukhtoon cards. He said that those doing politics on name of Islam have no representation of reli-

gious scholars in interim government of Kpk. He said that after getting ministry for son and governor ship slot of Kpk Molana has been quiet of histor-

ical inflation. He said that our previous government has inducted Nazra Quran, Tarjuma Quran and chapter on Seerat Ul Nabi SAAW in education syllabus.

He further said that ANP have used pukhtoon nation for getting government. He said that ANP is now silent over pukhtoon rights.

## Weekly Bazaar

ISLAMABAD: People are busy is buying vegetables in Sunday Weekly Bazaar in Federal Capital.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

# Sub-national polio immunization campaign concludes in 39 districts

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: A sub-national polio vaccination campaign concluded on Sunday in 39 districts of the country to vaccinate more than six million children under the age of five years.

The drive was started after sewage samples in Lahore tested positive for wild poliovirus last month.

The polio drive was conducted in nine districts, including the seven endemic districts of Bannu, D.I.Khan, Tank, Lakki Marwat, North Waziristan, Upper South Waziristan and Lower South Waziristan in southern Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, and two districts of Punjab including Lahore and Faisalabad.

The drive was planned after two environmental samples collected from two separate sites in Lahore tested positive for wild poliovirus in January.

According to the national polio lab at the National Institute of Health, the first positive sample of 2023



was detected on January 19 and was genetically linked to the poliovirus found in the Nangarhar province of Afghanistan in November 2022.

This was the first evidence of cross-border transmission in more than a year. The second positive sample was reported on January 27, which was genetically linked to a virus circulating in south KP.

In a statement, Minister for National Health Services, Abdul Qadir Patel said that

parents and caregivers should ensure that their children are vaccinated in every campaign to protect them from the disability-causing virus and to stop it from gaining a foothold in their communities.

He said the presence of wild poliovirus with genetic links to the virus in Afghanistan and south KP in sewage samples is evidence that the virus is moving with people and circulating in our communities.

The minister said, "Poliovirus on any side of the border

is a threat to children in both countries. Only repeated doses of the oral polio vaccine can offer life-long protection."

He said, "Our vaccinators will keep bringing the vaccine to your doorstep as often as needed, so I encourage parents and caregivers to ensure that your children take these drops and remain protected."

Coordinator of the National Emergency Operations Centre, Dr Shahzad Baig said in the last phases of eradication of poliovirus move with under-immunized populations, highlighting the importance of repeated vaccination.

He said last year 37 environmental samples were positive for wild poliovirus in 13 districts, but the program remained successful in preventing circulation in the districts of detection and limiting it to the endemic districts of southern KP.

Lahore district, which reported the positive samples, was already covered during the nationwide campaign in January.

## PPF calls applications for Media Safety Fellowship program

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Press Foundation (PPF) called applications for Media Safety Fellowships program to promote freedom of expression and support media professionals in producing stories on media safety and impunity in Pakistan.

Selected fellows would work under the supervision of a senior journalist who will act as the Project Editor, said a press release issued here Sunday.

During the fellowship program, each fellow would have to produce six stories for publication or broadcast in national media organizations.

The participants would also be awarded an honorarium of up to Rs 60,000. The deadline for submission of applications is February 26.

## CPO/DIG Operations hold an introductory meeting with Operation division officials

City Report

ISLAMABAD: Following the special directions of Inspector General of Police (IGP) Islamabad Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan, the Capital Police Officer Operations Syed Shahzad Nadeem Bhukhari hold an introductory meeting with Operation division officials at CPO/ DIG Operations office on Sunday.

During the meeting, SSP Operations Malik Jameel Zafar, SP Plan and Patrolling, all zonal DPOs, SDPOs, DSP property, DSP Eagle Squad and SHOs of all police stations were also present.

CPO / DIG Operations told the officers that they will all work together as a team and only those officers who perform well will remain in the team. Those who show laxity and negligence will face strict departmental action.

CPO /DIG Operations directed the officers to treat citizens with courtesy, listen to their problems and resolve them on a priority basis. Inappropriate and rude behavior will not be tolerated.

## Sardar Lateef appointed as convener of Muslim Conference in Saudi Arabia

Abdul Majeed Tahir

RAWALPINDI: President of All Jammu and Kashmir Muslim Conference and former Prime Minister Sardar Attique Ahmed Khan has approved Saudi Arabia's new part organization for 2023 to 2026.

According to the notification issued by the Secretary General of the Muslim Conference Ms. Mehr ul-Nisaa, Sardar Abdul Lateef Abbasi has been appointed as the convener of Saudi Arabia for the party organization of Saudi Arabia.

It is pertinent that Mr Abbasi has already been served as head of Saudi Arabia Unit since many years.

## PTI workers flock to register for JBT in Karachi



Bureau Report

KARACHI: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) workers on Sunday flocked to register for the Jail Bhara Tehreek (JBT) ahead of PTI chief Imran Khan's call for incepting the movement on Feb 22.

The party has established seven registration camps in Karachi's seven districts. Opposition leader in the Sindh Assembly Haleem Adil Sheikh along with PTI workers got themselves registered for the movement.

Mr Sheikh said it reflected people's enthusiasm and not a relief camp. "No one can face this enthusiasm", he added. The PTI would, he said, bury its political opponents before sending Mr Khan to jail.



Himayat-e-Islam Khawateen colleges organized sports gala.

## Alumni Urdu Chapter awards scholarships to eight students at annual ceremony

Spokesman Report

BAHAWALPUR: The annual ceremony of Alumni Urdu Chapter organized by the Directorate of Alumni Affairs, the Islamia University of Bahawalpur held at Ghulam Muhammad Ghotwi Hall, Abbasia Campus. Vice Chancellor of the Islamia University of Bahawalpur, Engr. Prof. Dr. Athar Mahboob was the chief guest of the ceremony. On this occasion eight students from Urdu Department received Alumni Urdu Chapter Scholarships and certificates for the best academic performance in the last semester.

This scholarship has been named Prof. Dr. Shafiq Ahmed Alumni Scholarship. Vice Chancellor Engr. Prof. Dr. Athar Mahboob gave scholarships to these students in the presence of Prof. Dr. Shafiq Ahmed, Former Dean, Dr. Azhar Hussain, Director Alumni Affairs and Shahzad Ahmed Khalid, Director Press Media and Publications. On this occasion Vice Chancellor said that, The university has established an alumni network equipped with information technology on the lines of the major universities of the world today. An alumni Portal has been established, containing the alumni of Islamia University of Bahawalpur connected from across the world.

## ECP yet to release final results of Karachi's local elections

News Desk

KARACHI: Despite the passage of one month in the Karachi's local elections, the Election Commission of Pakistan had not released the final results.

Sources said the hearing of six cases was still underway in the ECP and no schedule had been released in the 11 seats – candidates' death resulted in the lack of elections in 11 seats.

No singular party was able to obtain the clear majority in the recently held local elections and in this regard, the Pakistan Peoples Party invited the Jamaat-i-Islami for the formation of the government which still had not been accepted.

The ECP responding to the query of the Dunya News over the delay in result by saying that the hearing was being held over the request of the political parties.

# Arts Council Karachi paid tribute to Zia Mohiuddin and Amjad Islam Amjad

Bureau Report

KARACHI: Arts Council of Pakistan Karachi organized a prestigious ceremony in memory of Zia Mohyeddin and Amjad Islam Amjad, two intellectual and literary figures of Pakistan, in Jawn Elia lawn. President Arts Council Muhammad Ahmed Shah Anwar Maqsood, Iftikhar Arif, Zahra Nigha, Kishwar Naheed, Anwar Shaor, Azra Mohyeddin, Noor ul Huda Shah, Anbareen Haseeb Anbar, Asghar Nadeem Syed, Ashfaq Hussain, Nasir Abbas Nair, Mazhar Abbas, Javed Siddiqui (online), Hameed Shahid, Well-known personalities related to science and literature including wusattullah Khan, Nadeem Zafar Siddiqui, Junaid Zuberi, Ashraf, Akbar Islam participated while Shakeel Khan performed the duties of Moderator. President Arts Council Muham-

mad Ahmed Shah Said that this news was painful for everyone, Zia Sahib used to accompany us in every literary festival session, he had to go to America too, the whole world knows that Zia was the same, I loved him very much.

His childhood, all Life, how he died , collecting money in the second year for visit of Murree ,His initial training was with NM,Rashid, then his visit to Lahore and Karachi. Telling stories of marriages, love affairs his eyes litten up, he said that he has many things which are not printed, he showed me all and said that when I am gone, you have to do this work, it is the grief of a lifetime, he said that Amjad Islam Amjad was closely related to me .Amjad Islam Amjad was a great man, it was a big tragedy for us, he was supposed to participate in our Pakistan Literature Festival. No longer, both of them had a close relationship with the

Arts Council.

Poet Anwar Shaor said that the void of Zia Mohyeddin can never be filled. His style of reciting Urdu poetry and prose had a scholarly background. He said that now it seems like a dream that someone else like Zia Mohyeddin will be born, there are many mistakes in Urdu as now the people have become feminine, he said that Amjad Islam Amjad used to experiment in different genres of literature and in every direction his quality remained the same, he never left his pen and went on strike, he always used to write something or the other which continued till his death. He treated everyone with love and respect,

The famous poet Kishwar Naheed expressed his thoughts and said that there was a boy who used to play cricket and used to sit with us. His name was Amjad Islam Amjad. He worked a lot

on poetry, he remembered a lot of jokes, if I forgot a word, I used to talk to Amjad, he said that Zia bhai and I have many fights over pronunciation, he used to talk very little, we always used to talk to him. I will continue to respect the seniors, Noor ul Huda Shah said that the passing away of Amjad Islam Amjad and Zia Mohyeddin is a great loss. The way Amjad used to call my name still echoes in my ears, his poetry is always alive. she said that in order to write a good play, one must either be a poet himself or know how to write dialogues. There are those who create an era, Design the era, tell how to read, how to pay for words, all this was done by Zia Sahib, he will live forever with his work, Poet Anbareen Haseeb Anbar expressed his views. While saying that Amjad Islam Amjad and Zia Mohyeddin were an integral part of the Arts Council, I never thought that a



party would be organized without both of them. I had a very close relationship with Amjad, I remembered his poems orally during my student days. Former executive director of Arts Council Nadeem Zafar Siddiqui said that i had a good relationship with Amjad, he was a poet as well as a

very good person. Napa Managing Director Junaid Zuberi said that maybe life is that people come, spend their time and leave, working with Zia Mohyeddin is my most memorable period , I had the opportunity to learn a lot from him, he would often narrate

some incident or the other. A four-day festival has been held in which Zia Mohyeddin 's life will be discussed, actor Akbar Islam said, "I still can't believe that Zia Sahib is no longer among us. Ashraf said while talking that Amjad Islam Amjad lived quality of life that hardly anyone else had.



Islamabad  
15° - 23° Clear

SERVICES

Namaz Timings

Fajr	5:25 am
Zohr	12:22 pm
Asr	4:16 pm
Maghrib	5:55 pm
Isha	7:19 pm

EMERGENCY

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

Women Police Stations

Islamabad	9222596
Rawalpindi	9270601-20

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CAA	9281092

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MH	561116
Cantt Hospital	9270907-11
DHQ	5556311-4
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Holy Family	9290322-7
PIMS	9261170-79
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Potohar Town	9209224
Rawal Town	5773343

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Water Tanker Service	
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G-5, G-6, G-7, G-8	9203883
G-9, G-10, G-11, G-12, H-8	9266316
Wapda Islamabad	9217579-80
Sui Gas Complaint	119, 9272249
Wasa Water Tank	
Rawalpindi	0331-5022125

Uzma Gillani visited the Islamia University Bahawalpur

Correspondent

BAHAWALPUR: A world famous celebrity of Pakistan's TV Drama Uzma Gillani visited the Islamia University Bahawalpur on Friday.

The Department of Media and Communication Studies in collaboration with IUB Media Society and IUB Social Media Society organized a dialogue with her at Vice Chancellor's Secretariat, Baghdad Ul Jadeed Campus.

Prof Dr Muhammad Shahzad, Chairman Department of Media and Communication Studies Prof Dr Muhammad Shahzad being host of the Dialogue moderated the session wherein Prof Dr Rubina Bhatti, Dean Faculty of Social Sciences presided over it. Prof Dr Moazzam Jamil, Registrar IUB, Prof Dr Abou Bakar, Treasurer, Mr. Arif Ramooz, Addl.

Registrar, Dr. Samar Fahd, Member Syndicate, Prof Dr Bushra Siddique, Associate Professor Department of Entomology, Dr. Sajjad Hussain, Station Manager FM 92.6, Dr Syed Awais Gillani, Assistant Professor, Dr. Abida Naureen, Assistant Professor, Dr Shafaq Manzoor, Faculty of Media, Urdu Departments, Presidents of the IUB Social Media Society & Media Society and others attended the dialogue.

During discussion with the participants, Uzma Gillani shared her lifelong journey and stressed upon the entertainment industry to educate the youngsters.

After her exposure to a documentary about the Islamia University of Bahawalpur, Uzma Gillani widely appreciated the leadership of the Vice Chancellor Engr Prof Dr Athar Mahboob. She further agreed to visit the IUB on upcoming Bahawalpur Literary and Cultural Festival 2023.

She thanked the leadership of the University for arranging such a marvelous welcome.

# Mother Language Festival concludes

Waseem Khokhar

ISLAMABAD: Three-day Pakistan Mother Languages Literature Festival concluded in Islamabad with a call to rewrite state policies on languages and culture to promote true spirit of a Federal State based on respect for diversity, inclusion and inter-dependence.

Since last eight years, MLLF has become one of the important elements of Islamabad's cultural and literary scene. Indus Cultural Forum, a volunteer organization comprising literary and cultural enthusiasts arranged the festival in collaboration with Pakistan National Council of the Arts. It was supported by the National Heritage and Culture Division of Federal Government, Culture Departments of Governments of Sindh and Balochistan provinces, Friedrich Nauman Foundation (FNF), Forum for Language Initiatives, Idar Brae Taleem o Taraqi (IBT), Sindh Language Authority, ECO Science Foundation, Society for Alternative Media and Research.

Speaking at the concluding ceremony, Indus Cultural Forum Chairperson Dr. Manzoor Hussain Soomro said that the eight year journey of the festival on voluntary basis and with limited resources is a testimony that with

hard work, enthusiasm and dedication, we can do a lot to promote and protect Pakistan's true diverse face. He called for greater collaboration between government and other institutions to sustain such initiatives. ICF General Secretary Ashfaq Hussain Chandio said that the festival is great source of bringing people from all language communities together. He said the exchanges of ideas and creative works between writers, artists, poets and activists during these three days are further cultivated across the year and these three days become the source of years long bonding and collaborations between them. Senior member of ICF, Munawar Hassan said the linguistic diversity is the greatest strength of Pakistan, which should be a cause to bring people together and not divide them.

Director General of PNCA, Muhammad Ayub Jamali in his remarks said that the institutions like PNCA were open to collaboration with civil society organizations. It is part of the mandate of the PNCA to promote linguistic, artistic and cultural diversity of Pakistan.

Earlier in the day, speakers called for an education policy which centered around cognitive abilities of children to learn effectively in their mother language at primary level and gradu-

ally move to other languages. Zubair Torwali, Aftab Ahmed, Ameer Haider, Inamullah Shaikh, Shahid Rahman and others called for revisiting current education policies and practices to pave the way for learning in mother language.

In another session, books on alternative history were launched. Speakers of this session included prominent writers who have recently published new books on alternative history of Pakistan. Speaking in this session Naseer Memon, Panah Baloch, Aasma Shirazi, Muddasir Bashir, Aamir Mugheri and Molana Khanzeb Khan said that the true history of the country was distorted in the text books and younger generations were deprived of their right to know objective realities of the world around them.

On the first day of festival 9 prominent writers of different languages were bestowed with lifetime achievement awards for their lifelong dedication and contribution to literature, languages and culture of Pakistan. They included Amar Jalil (Sindhi), Fatima Hassan (Urdu), Salma Shaheen (Pushto), Sharif Shad (Pothohari), Dr. Fazl Khaliq Baloch (Balochi), Sarwat Muhi-ud-din (Punjabi), Dr. Muhammad Saghir Khan (Pahari), Dr. Abdul Rahman Brahui (Brahui) and Muhammad Irfan Irfan (Khowar).



The ceremony concluded with an enthralling music performance by prominent singer Humaira Channa. A play based on the stories of Manto was presented on the first day. Saferullah Khan also performed a collage of theatre performance on more than 5 stories. An exhibition of paintings by Mushtaq Ali Lashari was also part of three day attractions.

## Literature on footpath

RAWALPINDI: A vendor is displaying old books alongside road for selling purpose at Sadar area, in the city.



Photo: Online

## Zoha Rahman steps behind the camera in New York for 'Foundations'

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: Zoha Rahman, of Spider-Man: Far From Home fame, joined the team of "Foundations" in New York as a consultant and shadow director, coaching actors and bringing authenticity to the set while shooting the pilot. Foundations is a proof-of-concept for a TV show set and shot in New York. The story revolves around the journey of a Muslim student who tries to interpret the world as black and white, but is thrown into situations by his college professor, teaching him how to navigate the grey areas he never could've imagined. It's a philosophical



dramedy rooted in theory and reality.

Foundations is Executive Produced by director Bassam Tariq, of Mogul Mowgli and Marvel's Blade. It is written and directed by Laith Devjiyani, a

Director's Assistant at Marvel Studios, and Co-Written by Ikra Zulfikar, Script Coordinator for an untitled show at A24.

This is an opportunity for Zoha to showcase her talents behind the camera and to be

a part of a new and exciting international project. Overall, Zoha Rahman is making waves in the film industry, she has already featured in Marvel, and in shows on Netflix and Apple TV, as well as in Bollywood film '83. Her latest short film 'Eid Mubarak' has been acquired by Disney's Creator+ and is premiering at Children's Film Festival in Seattle. Her work on the highly-anticipated feature film 'Dirty Angels' will be seen later this year, and her role as a consultant and shadow director on this new project in New York are all proof of her talent and hard work, we can expect to see more great work from her in the future

## ANF seizes over 1093 kg drugs in 16 operations; arrests 14

City Reporter

RAWALPINDI: Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) Pakistan has seized over 1093 kg of drugs and 586.8 litres of prohibited chemicals, arrested 14 accused including two women and impounded three vehicles while conducting 16 courier-narcotics operations across the country during the last 48 hours, said an ANF spokesman here on Sunday.

He informed that ANF conducted a raid near Islamabad Tarnol Toll Plaza and recovered 43.2 kg charras and seven kg opium from secret cavities of a pick-up vehicle besides arresting two accused.

ANF in another operation near Islamabad Motorway Toll Plaza managed to recover 16 kg heroin, 7.2 kg opium and 7.2 kg

border area. In another operation on Karachi Super-Highway, ANF seized one kg crystal heroin and 900 grams of Ice drug from the possession of a woman resident of Multan.

In the eighth operation near Gwadar and recovered 25 kg charras, 10 kg heroin and 150 kg Ice drug.

ANF conducted a raid in the Chaman area and managed to recover 586.8 litres of prohibited chemicals while in another raid in the Quetta-Hazarganji area, ANF also recovered 105 kg charras which were concealed in secret cavities of a car.

In the eleventh operation, ANF seized 490 kg charras from an abandoned house. The spokesman further informed that ANF also recov-

ered 90 heroin-filled capsules from the possession of a Doha-bound passenger resident of Faisalabad going on flight no PK-287.

In an operation at Bacha Khan International Airport, ANF recovered nine charras-filled capsules from the possession of a Sarjahn-bound passenger resident of Bannu going on flight no PK-257.

In a joint operation conducted by ANF and FC in Khyber, 18 kg charras was recovered from the Pak-Afghan Border area.

ANF recovered 150 grams of weeds from the possession of three accused netted from the Karachi Korangi Road area while in an operation, ANF recovered 30 kg charras hidden in bushes near the Panjgor-Turbat Highway area.

## Play 'Kora Kaghaz' staged at PAC



City Reporter

RAWALPINDI: An improvisational play based on girls' education, Kora Kaghaz was presented in the Punjab Arts Council. The play is written and directed by Shama Adil. The characters of the play included Ali Shan, Syed Liaquat Shah, Shehzad Pappu, Arshad Khan, Jhalik Ali, Sofia Ali and others. The chief guest of the game was Director Arts Council Waqar Ahmed. The play highlighted the benefits of education for girls. Director Arts Council Waqar Ahmed said on this occasion that the title of the game was very good. In the 21st century, the education of girls cannot be denied. Education is the basic need of human being. Just as earning a living is necessary for living, education is necessary for creating a good and religious society. A woman is that part of human society which plays an important and fundamental role in the development and education of the human race. Finally, the Director Arts Council congratulated the writer, director and all the actors for presenting the best play. A large number of people were present at the Arts Council to watch the play.

## "Haq do Tehreek Lower Waziristan" arranged a seminar on resources and census



Adam Khan Wazir

WANA: In South Waziristan Lower Wana arranged a one-day seminar named "Haq do Tehreek Waziristan" at District Press Club Wana, President Jamaat-e-Islami South Waziristan Lower Muhammad Nadeem, General Secretary Asadullah, Ahmed Khan from Peoples Party, Imran Nazir from NDM and representatives of Counselors alliance, besides people from different walks of life participated in the seminar.

The seminar was held on the topic of "Haq do Tehreek Waziristan" in which various people expressed their views, people said, As Waziristan has the first right over the resources of Waziristan, it would be extreme to deprive Waziristan of their legitimate rights.

The speakers said that after a long time, the census is going to be conducted by the Election Commission, Therefore, Election Commission Federal Government, Provincial Government and District Administration should ensure real census in Waziristan.

## A nursery ward equipped with modern facilities was inaugurated

Adam Khan Wazir



DERA ISMAIL KHAN: According to the details, the nursery ward for newborn babies was inaugurated at Mufti Mahmood Hospital Dera Ismail Khan by Chairman BOG Raza Ali Gandapur, Dean Gomal Medical College Prof. Dr. Naseem Saba Mehsud and Director of Hospital Dr. Farrukh Jameel. Chairman BOG Raza Ali Gandapur said that children specialist Dr. Taj Mehsud worked hard in establishing the ward and made the ward usable today.

Professor Dr. Naseem Saba Mehsud said that Taj Mehsud did a great job for the people of southern districts including Dera Ismail Khan by constructing the ward with his personal efforts.

Chairman said that there was a heavy load of patients at DHQ Hospital due to which there were difficulties in providing required facilities to the patients, but the establishment of nursery ward in Mufti Mahmood Hospital will reduce the problems.

Director Hospital Dr. Farrukh Jameel said that MTI hospitals are trying to provide free facilities to patients, and soon a modern style nursery ward will also be completed at DHQ Hospital.

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# Excellent performance of Mirpur Teaching Hospital

**Javed Malik**

**U**nder the leadership of Dr. Amir Aziz, Medical Superintendent of the Divisional Headquarters Teaching Hospital, Mirpur, with the excellent performance of one year, the people of the region were provided with treatment facilities and with the cooperation of various charitable and social organizations, facilities were also provided for the relatives of the patients. According to the details, MS Dr. Amir Aziz, as the administrative head of DHQ Hospital, along with the doctors and paramedical staff, will make a counter for the patients outside the Accident and Emergency in the hospital, and converted the counter into an emergency reception so that the patients can be treated. Services should be provided with dignity and respect, which not only made it easier for employees to perform their duties.

PGRs and HOs did not have any proper place to sit in accident and emergency due to which patients were facing problems in timely treatment. Ensured the provision of HIF funds to the hospital, through which one room was prepared for PGRs and HOs per mile, which significantly improved the performance of the hospital. The design was completed from the Architect to make bays for

the medicine and surgery department in Accident and Emergency, from which the medical officers will refer the patient to the relevant department. Apart from this, a separate design was also completed for the waiting area for the relatives of the patients. Installed a big sign board at the main gate emergency trauma center to make it easier for the patients who come in the emergency, also removed the parking fee from the hospital. 1.5 million tough tiles will be installed in the parking area with the support of the local government.

Laboratory In view of the difficulties of the patients in the department, a regular modern reception was established and a new waiting area was established in the laboratory. All the tests were brought into modern computerized reporting. It has become easier for patients and their relatives to go to the upper floor. 07 incubators have been provided for newborns in the children, nursery ward. It should be remembered that the incubators provided in the nursery ward are of the same type used in the big hospitals of Islamabad and Lahore. A computerized system has been installed in Kashmir Cardiology

Center to secure all patient records with the help of software.

After renovation of the gynecology ward, CCTV cameras have also been installed in all departments. The only hospital in Azad Kashmir is the Divisional Head. Warter Teaching Hospital is Mirpur where treatment facilities are being provided under the Sahat Sohlat program. Sahat Sohlat Pharmacy has been shifted to Old Dispensary in front

sanctioned, which will install a separate power line from the grid station directly to the hospital in a few days. With the support of Anjuman Falah wa Behbood Insiyatiy Mirpur, a shelter home project of 50 lakhs was started in the hospital, which will provide the best accommodation for the relatives of the patients. Grass and plants were planted in the waiting area of the hospital for beauty.

The hospital is equipped with the latest technology. CCTV cameras will also be installed. Gynae OPD is being shifted to a new and spacious place and the old Gynae OPD is being shifted to a new and modern and spacious place with a laboratory which is in the final stages of completion and modern computerized system is being installed. The best steps have been taken for the duty roster of the staff with the doctors, due to which the hospital has improved a lot in terms of management. Whenever there is an emergency in the hospital, be it night or day, the MS would reach the spot and supervise himself. are MS Dr. Amir Aziz is working day and night to make DHQ Hospital an ideal hospital of the state and for this he has full support of doctors, staff and citizens. After the completion of the new building of the hospital, DHQ Hospital will in no way be less than a major hospital in Pakistan in terms of health services.

Report by **Javed Malik** working in PID Mirpur, AzK

## PUC celebrating 33 years of foundation

**P**akistan Ulema Council (PUC) Chairman Hafiz Muhammad Tahir Mehmood Ashrafi on Sunday said the council was celebrating its 33 years of foundation with 10-day activism from February 18 to 28 across the country.

Ashrafi, who is also Special Representative of the Prime Minister on Interfaith Harmony and Middle East in an exclusive talk with APP, said the PUC, established in 1990, had organized a number of religious programmes including conventions and seminars and Paigham-e-Islam Conference would also be held in March in this connection.

He said the council was member of various national and international organizations and playing a vibrant role for inter-sect and inter-faith harmony on the globe.

He said it had set some targets to achieve in the year 2023 and 2024, and the system of Khilafat-e-Rashida was on its main agenda.

He said it would continue its efforts to establish the system of Khilafat-e-Rashida in the country as it was based on justice and equality.

He said these days, there was so much talk of holding elections at every nook and cranny of the country adding that the elections must be held as per law of the land.

Ashrafi further informed that the PUC had decided not to contest elections until and unless the misuse of huge money was strictly prohibited in it adding that it would extend its support to their like-minded people who would fight the elections in their respective constituencies across the country.

Citing example of Nankana Sahib's disappointing incident, he said there should be an effective mechanism to deal with increasing polarization and extremism in the society. Nobody would be allowed to use Mehrab-o-Mimber for death and destruction in the country anyway, he added.

He went to say that if someone was accused of desecration of the Holy Quran or blasphemy of the Holy Prophet Muhammad (Peace Be Upon Him) would be punished by the court of law, also adding that nobody would be given free hand to be complainant, judge and executioner.

He proposed that we had to mend our ways as such inhuman incidents were bringing bad names to Pakistan, Muslims and Islam across the world.



## Medium-wave Radio: The End of an Era

**M Haroon Abbas**

**1**00 years ago, Australian superstar Dame Nellie Melba sang 'Home Sweet Home' into a microphone & made history. The world's 1st live public entertainment broadcast came from a Marconi studio in Chelmsford.

Nellie's voice was heard by radio enthusiasts around the World, given there was little competition for either audiences—or space on the spectrum. Enthusiastic reports of the reception of the 15kW long wave transmissions came in from Iran, New York and Newfoundland.

Radio not only survives but continues to thrive as a broad reach proposition because its core benefits to listeners are hard to replicate and scale through more personalized technologies. We still love radio because it's simple to access, offers predictable edited choice and above all, at least in my view, it has the psychological superpower of providing listeners with good company and great memories.

The Golden Age of Radio, also known as the old-time radio (OTR) era, was an era of radio in the world where it was the dominant electronic home entertainment medium. It began with the birth of commercial radio broadcasting in the early 1920s and lasted through the 1950s, when television gradually superseded radio as the medium of choice for scripted programming, variety and dramat-

ic shows.

Today's listeners, who use radio largely as a background to do other things, might wonder how radio could hold a listener's interest for several hours at a time.

There's a one-word answer: imagination. Not being "troubled" by the spelled out details in pictures, the people of the era could and did imagine what the people and situations looked like.

After its golden era, the AM Radio persistently on decline and now is on crutches.

AM is dying for a lack of listeners. Only 10 to 20 % of all radio listeners listen to it, and that depends upon the locale. It may be less than 10 % in some places. If stations can't get listeners, they cannot get the advertising that keeps them alive. Most of the listeners moved on to FM or other radio sources. These other sources include satellite and Internet radio, along with things like iPods or smartphones loaded with songs and podcasts. Satellite radio is now in most vehicles.

It is also a reality that AM Radio has faced closure all around the world including in UK, France, Germany, Italy and India because of many multiple competitive sources of content like FM and Digital Broadcast, AM is also failing because of technical problems inherent in the AM process, along with some unyielding regulations. For example, AM stations lose listeners at night because the FCC makes them cut power or shut

down completely to avoid interference to other stations on the same frequency. AM signal propagation in the 535 to 1,705 kHz range changes drastically from day to night.

FM had been quite popular among listeners and now digital broadcasting is a green technology which has many advantages over analog viz. FM like clear reception, more than one programme on same frequency, programme related text information, value added text containing news, traffic information etc.

Range of digital broadcast is very large compared to FM, which



is limited to city only. Early warning signal feature is also available to alarm for any disaster viz. earth quake, flood, storm etc. digital receiver automatically selects another channel when goes out of range. It is four times more channels are possible within the same frequency which can provide more options to listeners; the technology is broadcast-centric and hence there are no data charges for consumers and it provides a better listening experience than analogue transmission – across both audio quality and user interface

As of 2021, DRM claimed a reach of 600 millions predominantly in the AM and SW bands, while DAB claimed a coverage of 420 million and HD Radio of 400 millions.

Globally, 1.4 billion people can access digital radio services UK, US, China, Australia, and many European countries transitioned to digital radio almost a decade ago and there are around 2,700 HD Radio stations across the US, Canada and Mexico, 1,700 DAB/DAB+ radio stations in Europe and parts of Middle East (Tunisia, Kuwait, Qatar), 560 CDR radio stations in China, 139 DAB+ radio stations in Australia and 33 DRM radio stations in India operate in AM; trials conducted for FM

In India, digital was radio launched over 10 years ago but is languishing because digital radio has not been rolled-out on FM transmitters and has no private participation, some 600 million people are covered at present by DRM digital signals due to AIR's transmitters using 35 MW transmitters. More than 1 million new cars are on the Indian roads today, all equipped with DRM radios, which come at no extra cost to the owners. Currently in India, digital radio is available 3 hours per day across a few cities using DRM technology, HD Radio has been tested and evaluated for the FM band in the cities of Delhi and Jaipur and DRM radio has been evaluated and tested for AM band in Dhanbad in 2007 and for the FM band in Delhi and Jaipur.

One the other hand Pakistan has been lagging behind despite direction of Planning Commission, in 2020 Radio Pakistan prepared "Digital Radio Migration Policy – Adoption of Digital Radio Standard" which is a three phase policy.

Under these phases, transmitters at Peshawar and Dera Ismail Khan will be upgraded for operation on simulcast mode as well as pure digital mode. The biggest 1000-Kilowatt DRM Medium-wave transmitting station of state-run Radio will be set up at Fort Monroe hill station in Dera Ghazi Khan. Five DRM+FM transmitters of 10-kilowatt each will also be installed in Islamabad, Lahore, Karachi, Faisalabad and Multan in the existing Radio Stations. Besides, eight DRM+FM transmitters of five kilowatt each will be installed in Quetta, Peshawar, Gilgit, Skardu, Gwadar, Mirpur (Azad Kashmir), Khairpur and Narawal in the existing Radio stations.

Nevertheless, we will see an increase in digital media platforms in the coming years. To those who are capable of using them, there are definite benefits. You can listen to music catered to your own tastes, skip or change the songs you don't like, and for the most part, avoid the majority of advertisements.

Traditional AM/FM radio will still be around. But to those who have accessibility, there will be a better option, and therefore AM/FM radio listeners will dwindle away.

## A novel feeding strategy for goat fattening

**By Muhammad Awais Khurshid/ Dr. Muhammad Afzal Rashid**

**L**ivestock is an integral part of agriculture sector, and Pakistan ranks 4th in the world for its goat population, with approximately 80.3 million heads. Despite this, the growth potential of native breeds is lower than global meat goat breeds, which can be attributed to the traditional extensive production system and low concentrate feeding. To address this, a trend for intensive goat rearing has emerged, though this is often hindered by fluctuations in feed quantity and quality.

Recently, raising sheep and goats on high-concentrate diets like complete pelleted diets (CPD), has become increasingly popular due to its maximum growth potential with minimum labor. Straw-based CPD is an innovative technology that provides

balanced supply of feed. The potential of high-grain straw-based CPD in long-term fattening, as well as the effects of different levels of neutral detergent fiber in the diet with different dietary transition periods, is still unknown.

To assess the potential of CPD in goats, a series of experiments were conducted. Beetal male goats were reared for 91 days on a diet comprised of 15% oat straw and 85% concentrate, with 4 and 8 mm straw particle size. In another study, animals were reared for 77 days on low and high NDF diets, with 7 and 15 transition day. Results showed that increasing the particle size of straw in high grain CPD, and fattening goats transitioned at day 7 fed on a high NDF diet improved growth performance, intake, digestibility, feeding behavior, reduced diarrhea, and higher meat percentage and marbling score. Overall, goats fed on CPD gained 200 grams weight per day. This research is useful in bridging the gap between conventional and modern feeding strategies.

# China, Pakistan launches International Industry-Education Cooperation Alliance Initiative

Spokesman Report

BEIJING: Addressing a seminar in connection with launching of the initiative in Beijing, President of TANG International Education Group Li Jinsong said the China-Pakistan International Industry-Education Cooperation Alliance will facilitate introduction of 210 Technical and Vocational Education and Training disciplines in Pakistan.

He said it will also facilitate establishment of 36 training excellence centers and provide opportunities of pursuing further studies and jobs in China.

Speaking on the occasion, Pakistan's Ambassador to China, Moin ul Haque said with the progress of CPEC, the demand for skilled labor force is becoming more and more urgent.

He said a large number of Chinese enterprises are working in Pakistan



on different projects and they need skilled labor force.

On this occasion, over 20 agreements were signed on bilateral

education and industrial cooperation projects.

## Taliban plans to turn former foreign bases into special economic zones

News Desk

KABUL: The Taliban administration will move ahead with plans to turn former foreign military bases into special economic zones for businesses, the acting deputy prime minister for economic affairs said in a statement on Sunday.

The acting commerce minister had told Reuters in December that his ministry was working on the plan for former American bases and would submit it to both the economic committee led by acting deputy PM Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar and to the cabinet for approval.

"Following a thorough discussion, it was decided that the Ministry of Industry and Commerce should progressively take control of



the remaining military bases of the foreign forces with the intention of converting them into special economic zones," Mullah Baradar said in the statement.

He added a pilot plan would begin to convert bases in the capital Kabul and in northern Balkh province.

Afghanistan's economy has struggled and aid agencies are warning of a severe humanitarian crisis since the Taliban took over in 2021 as foreign troops withdrew after 20 years of war.

The takeover sparked a cut in development funding, the freezing of foreign-held

central bank assets and sanctions enforced on the banking sector.

The Taliban administration's decision to bar most female NGO workers from work last year prompted many aid agencies to partially suspend operations while millions remain dependent on humanitarian aid.

The Taliban have said they are focused on boosting economic self-sufficiency through trade and investment. Some foreign investors have expressed concerns over a series of attacks, including at a hotel popular with Chinese businessmen, claimed by Islamic State.

However, the World Bank has also noted that exports rose and the Taliban administration managed to keep revenues largely steady in 2022.

## Syrian baby born in earthquake adopted by aunt and uncle



News Desk

JANDARIS, SYRIA: An infant child born in northern Syria during this month's devastating earthquake was reunited on Saturday with her aunt and uncle, after her parents and siblings died in the disaster.

Footage circulating widely on social media after the quake showed a rescuer scrambling down a hill of rubble carrying a tiny dust-covered baby.

The newborn was later identified as the child of Abdallah and Afraa Mleihan, who died in the earthquake along with their other children in the rebel-held town of Jandar in Syria's Aleppo province.

The infant was treated in the Jihan Hospital further west in the Afrin district, also opposition-held, until medics could verify the identities of her relatives.

On Saturday, her paternal aunt Hala and uncle by marriage Khalil Al-Sawadi finally picked up their niece—whom they named Afraa, after her deceased mother.

"This girl means so much to us because there's no-one left of her family besides this baby. She'll be a memory for me, for her aunt and for all of our relatives in the village of her mother and father," Sawadi told Reuters.

He was carrying Afraa, wrapped in a pink blanket, in one arm and his own newborn daughter Ataa, wrapped in blue, in the other. Ataa was born three days after the earthquake and Sawadi said he would raise them together.

"There were legal procedures to confirm the genetic relation, as well as a DNA test," he told Reuters.

More than 5,800 people have died across Syria as a result of the Feb. 6 earthquake, the bulk in the opposition-held north which had already suffered years of bombardment since conflict broke out in Syria in 2011.

## Ukraine troops prepare for threat of Russia capturing Bakhmut



News Desk

SIVERSK, UKRAINE: Ukrainian troops conducting weekend exercises near the small town of Siversk, in the country's east, said they were preparing to defend one of the possible targets of a new Russian offensive.

Siversk, which had a pre-war population of 10,000, is 35 kilometres (21 miles) north of Bakhmut—scene of fierce fighting in recent weeks—and on a direct road to another of the key towns in the Donetsk region, Sloviansk.

"If they occupied Bakhmut, then we would be semi-encircled, because on the left side we have the Siverskiy Donets river, and the enemy will advance from the right, and it is possible to cut us off if they reach the Bakhmut highway," said the deputy Siversk battalion commander, who used the nom-de-guerre "Han".

Ukrainian forces have appealed for more advanced weapons from Kyiv's Western allies to help defend Bakhmut, which is being attacked by Russia's Wagner mercenary group.

## Baku to host Int'l Congress on Advanced Earthquake Resistant structures

News Desk

BAKU: Baku will host the "International Congress on Advanced Earthquake Resistant Structures (AERS 2023)" on April 26-28 organized by the Azerbaijan University of Architecture and Construction.

The congress will bring together scientists from Turkey, Japan, Italy, England, Canada, USA, Portugal, Denmark and other countries.

The Congress aims to get a holistic view of research in the main goals of earthquake engineering. The congress will provide an excellent international forum for sharing knowledge and expertise of the researchers, engineers and also industry.

The congress invites companies, considering their extensive experience, achievements and high technological standards, to take part in the congress. In particular, a presentation of good practice in advanced earthquake-resistant projects, together with a presentation of the technologies and equipment this involves, is very much desired by the world community. Please send reports to [azer.qasimzade@azmiu.edu.az](mailto:azer.qasimzade@azmiu.edu.az) by March 17. Admission of materials from Azerbaijan to the Congress is free of charge.

## Iran reacts to Azerbaijan's remarks on embassy attack



IRNA

TEHRAN: Iran's Foreign Ministry Spokesman Nasser Kanaani reacted to the President of Azerbaijan Republic's remarks on the embassy attack in Tehran and said that any prejudice, politicization, and media hype should be avoided.

Referring to the attack on the Azerbaijan Embassy in Tehran, Kanaani said on Sunday that creating unreasonable interpretations of the incident in the media is not a constructive measure in the course of legal and judicial pursuit of the case.

As repeatedly emphasized by the relevant authorities of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the case is going through its legal process, he said, adding that what was notified is based on the assailant's explicit statements and all aspects of this bitter incident are being investigated accurately and expertly.

As stated in the diplomatic messages and contacts of senior political and judicial officials of the two countries, the Islamic Republic of Iran is ready to provide the Azerbaijani side with the investigation results, he noted.

He further noted that all the ambiguities and questions that are in the minds of the authorities of the Republic of Azerbaijan would be responded to in the framework of cooperation and a constructive approach.

## Discuss regional, int'l issues

Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari met with the Vice President of the European Union Josep Borrell on the sidelines of the Munich Security Conference in Germany on Sunday.



# International community now understood the Kashmir issue, says Barrister Sultan

Abdul Majeed Tahir

SAHANSA: Azad Jammu and Kashmir President Barrister Sultan Mahmood Chaudhry has said that with my recent visit to Britain, Europe, America and Turkey, I have shocked the world conscience and the international community has now understood the position of the Kashmiri people on the Kashmir issue. The main purpose of my visit is to remove the special status of the state of Jammu and Kashmir by the Modi government on August 5, 2019, and have taken such measures in Occupied Kashmir, with which I wanted to end the Kashmir issue and usurp the 42 lakh non-state Hindus in Occupied Kashmir.

It was to expose the nefarious conspiracy to bring in a Hindu Chief Minister by changing the demographics of the state by settlement and by changing the constituencies there and to expose the

nefarious ambitions of Modi to the world. This visit was the most successful visit in my 35-year-old foreign visits related to the Kashmir issue. In my meetings at the United Nations, the United Nations officials made it clear that the Kashmir issue is on the agenda of the United Nations and that the Secretary General of the United Nations has addressed this issue. Interested in getting a solution. The black face of India has been badly exposed in front of the international world, until the Kashmir issue is not resolved,

it is not possible to establish peace in the region. Will continue. While I am fulfilling my responsibilities as the president of the state by highlighting the issue of Kashmir at the international level, I will also play my role for the welfare of the people of Azad Kashmir and to solve their problems. Sahansa issues will be resolved on priority basis. These views were expressed by Ranho while addressing the reception organized in

his honor here in Sahansa as a special guest. Minister of Finance Chaudhry Muhammad Akhlaq performed the duties of presiding and hosting the public meeting. On this occasion, apart from Finance Minister Chaudhry Muhammad Akhlaq, Planning and Development Minister Chaudhry Muhammad Rasheed, Social Welfare Adviser Sardar Muhammad Hussain, Physical Planning and Housing Minister Chaudhry Yasir Sultan, Parliamentary Secretary Javed Butt, Member Kashmir Council Sardar Razaq Khan were present at the public meeting. Sardar Rabnawaz Khan, Chaudhry Abdul Ghafoor Member District Council, Raja Khaliq, Raja Ifukhar and other speakers also addressed. Earlier, when the President of Azad Jammu and Kashmir Barrister Sultan Mahmood Chaudhry arrived at Sahansa, he was given a grand welcome, flowers were showered on him, he was garlanded with flowers and loud slogans

were raised in his favour. President Azad Jammu and Kashmir Barrister Sultan Mahmood Chaudhry while speaking added that my recent visit to UK, Europe, America and Turkey has really highlighted the issue of Kashmir at the international level.

The atrocities committed by the Modi government in the occupied state of Jammu and Kashmir and the rights of other religions within India have been solidified, which proves that India is not a democracy but a Hindu dictatorship which is running on the ideology of Hinduism. President Azad Jammu and Kashmir Barrister Sultan Mahmood Chaudhry said that during this visit, I have presented the case of one and a half crore Kashmiri people in the European Parliament, British Parliament, US Ministry of Foreign Affairs and other forums including the United Nations. He has met the members of Parliament including the Kashmiri

Committees of different countries and has taken a blunt stand for the solution of the Kashmir issue. President Azad Jammu and Kashmir Barrister Sultan Mahmood Chaudhry said that I had given a message to Modi earlier that I will follow him wherever he goes in the world, that is why I have expressed the position of Kashmiris regarding the Kashmir issue around the world. Raised with courage. Marched from the Indian High Commission to the British Prime Minister's residence on the occasion of February 05 Solidarity Day and expressed full solidarity with the people of Occupied Kashmir. He said that India's effort was to resolve the Kashmir issue. But India itself has made such mistakes at the international level due to which the international public opinion is against India. India considered itself a great democratic country, but it has denied the rights of the minorities in Occupied Kashmir, including India.



This has opened the pool of secularism in front of the world. With my recent visit, the way the Kashmir problem is being highlighted all over the world is due to the sacrifices of the martyrs who shed their blood for the sake of freedom in Occupied Kashmir. Inshallah, the sacrifices will pay off and the people of the occupied state of Jammu and Kashmir will get freedom soon. Azad Jammu and Kashmir President Barrister Sultan Mahmood Chaudhry said that where I have played my role to highlight the Kashmir issue at the international level, now I will play my role for the betterment of Azad Kashmir. My visit to America, Great Britain, Belgium and Turkey will have a far-reaching impact on Kashmir's freedom movement and with this visit I have shocked the world conscience.

**Suzuki announces further shutdown**

Commerce Desk

LAHORE: As it contends with an inventory constraint brought on by import restrictions, Pak Suzuki Motor Company (PSMC) on Friday announced extending the suspension of its vehicle production from February 20 to February 21.

Message released to Pakistan Stock Exchange said that "due to continuous shortfall of inventory level, the management of the firm has decided to prolong the shutdown of vehicle production from February 20, 2023 to February 21, 2023."

The memo also said that the motorbike facility will continue to operate Suzuki motorcycles, sedans, pickup trucks, vans, 4x4s, and other vehicles are locally assembled, produced, and marketed by PMSC along with any necessary replacement parts. The Suzuki nameplate is Japanese.

Earlier this month, PSMC stated that its factory will be temporarily closed from February 13 to February 17 due to an inventory shortfall.

The State Bank of Pakistan's (SBP) prior permission system for imports, according to PSMC at the time, "adversely impacted clearance of import consignment, which consequently damaged the inventory levels."

Moreover, PSMC had stated that it will stop accepting new motorbike reservations on January 20 for an indeterminate period owing to "import-based supply chain bottlenecks and unknown manufacturing capabilities."

Bookings will start up again as soon as conditions are right to service new clients, it added.

Due to the SBP's limits on the issue of Letters of Credit following relentless currency depreciation, Pakistan's auto sector, which is heavily dependent on imports, is in crisis. Since the nation's reserves have critically declined, industries are experiencing operational challenges.

**RCCI IES 2023 on March 4-5**

Commerce Reporter

RAWALPINDI: A two-day International Education Summit 2023 organized by the Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI) will be held from March 4 to 5 at a local hotel in Rawalpindi.

President RCCI Saqib Rafiq said that the Education policy has not been formulated keeping in mind the demand of the industry in Pakistan. Be it development in any field in the world, be it knowledge economy or science-based development, be it traditional business development or IT sector development, education is fundamental in all these systems and development.

It is very unfortunate that in Pakistan only 1.77 per cent of GDP was spent on the education sector whereas developed countries are spending more than 5% of GDP on education, he added.

It is a disappointment that the product we are developing in educational institutions has no market value. We did not understand the market and did not consult the stakeholders, he further added.

Saqib Rafiq said that, "We have a gap between industry and academia which has created problems, and work has to be done to address them."

Our students have more talent and ability than the rest of the world. If they are shown the right direction, given training and opportunities to advance, it will be of great benefit, he added.

Chairman of Expo Waqas Bin Mahmood has said that in the two-day Expo where stalls will be set up by various universities, a conference will also be held on the sidelines of the Expo. He said that the Rawalpindi Chamber is going to organize this kind of Expo for the first time.

The aim of the conference is to increase connectivity between industry and academia in view of contemporary challenges, discuss and find solutions to the problems related to emerging technology and employment opportunities, e-commerce, scholarships and industry demand.

**DIG Operations assures to improve security in markets and industrial areas**

Tariq Khattak

ISLAMABAD: Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) leading a delegation, met with Syed Shehzad Nadeem Bukhari, Deputy Inspector General Operations of Islamabad Police and discussed issues of mutual interest with him.

He commended the Islamabad Police for bringing the criminals of recent incident with a woman in F-9 Park to justice as it will create a better sense of security in women and they will be able to go to markets and parks with confidence. He said that it is necessary to deal strictly with the elements that harass women so that women can go out of their houses without fear and play their active role in the development of the economy and society.

He said that ICCI is trying to install security cameras in the important markets of Islamabad in collaboration with market associations so that crimes in the markets can be eradicated, which will give better promotion to commercial activities. He gave various suggestions to the DIG Operations to further improve the security situation in the commercial centers and assured that the business community would fully cooperate with the police in efforts to curb crimes in the federal capital. He also invited the DIG Operations to visit ICCI and various markets, which was accepted by Syed Shehzad Nadeem Bukhari.

Speaking on the occasion, Syed Shehzad Nadeem Bukhari, DIG Operations said that the business community is playing a key role



in promoting the economy, so the Islamabad Police would always try to provide them with a peaceful and safe environment. He said that with the support of the Chamber, police will try to improve security in markets and industrial areas. Talking about the recent incident of F-9 Park, he said that harassers of women will be dealt with iron hands and the police will crack down with full force on those who disturb the peace of the society. He said that

it is our mission to make Islamabad police a model police and for this purpose we will rid the police of black sheep. He said that to make Islamabad a crime-free city, the cooperation of the citizens, including the business community, is necessary, so the police will make progress in this direction with their cooperation.

Faod Waheed, Senior Vice President ICCI offered useful suggestions for improving security arrangements in industrial areas with the

DIG Operations and hoped that they would be implemented to facilitate better promotion of industrial activities.

Zafar Bakhtawari former President ICCI, Asad Aziz President Jinnah Supermarket, Raja Javed Iqbal President G-9 Markaz Karachi Company, Maqsood Tabish, Sheikh Moham-mad Ejaz, Akhtar Hussain, Khalid Chaudhry, Saif ur Rehman Khan and others were included in the delegation.

**Press conference**

LAHORE: Minister of State for Petroleum, Dr. Musadik Malik addressing a press conference at Press club.



Photo: APP

**KP BoIT gives final touch to establish export processing zone in N.Waziristan**

Bureau Report

PESHAWAR: The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Board of Investment and Trade (BoIT) has given the final touches to the plan of establishing an export processing zone for a copper mining and processing project in North Waziristan, for which fifteen hundred acres of mining lease has been acquired through the provincial government.

Over 11,000 tons of copper will be extracted and processed daily from this lease. This was revealed during a briefing given to provincial caretaker Minister for Industries, Commerce and Technical Education Adnan Jalil during his visit of the BoIT headquarters in Peshawar on Sunday.

Adnan Jalil, while eulogizing the overall performance of the Board, also expressed his satisfaction over the establishment of special industrial zones and industrial estates in the province as well as opening the new doors for billions of dollars of private investment in the numerous sectors of tourism, science

and technology, IT, agriculture, livestock, infrastructure, mines, minerals and energy.

He assured full support on behalf of his provincial government in this regard. He further appreciated the board's 14 km cable car project from Kumrat to MadakLasht, an attractive tourist destination of Dir Upper, which will provide employment to 35,500 people with a private investment of Rs 25 billion while the adjacent skiing, walking tracks and hotel industry, would increase its international attraction, he added.

Adnan Jalil also praised the role of the Board in attracting investment for the establishment of eleven different industrial units including steel, ceramics, solar energy, oil extraction and solvation, chemicals, beverages and electric cables and wires in different parts of the province.

He expressed the hope that the Board will fulfil its onerous responsibilities for the industrial development of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa including the merged districts.



**IMF bailout alone cannot put economy back on track: BMP**

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: As the annual inflation rate has hit the new high of 38.42% for the previous week the Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry's Businessmen Panel has warned that a bailout from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) alone was unlikely to put the country's economy back on track, as the minibudget would further deteriorate the financial situation in the country.

Amidst continuous of hike in cost of production in the country, what the Pakistan's economy really needs is persistent and sound economic management, observed FPCCI former president and BMP Chairman Mian Anjum Nisar. He asked the authorities for undertaking

economic reforms and improving the regulatory environment to boost foreign investment so that financial stability can be achieved in the long-run.

The Businessmen Panel (BMP) chief stressed the need for reducing cost of doing business, besides evolving a new price control mechanism, as huge taxation, rising oil prices and constant jump in electricity and gas tariffs have lifted the inflation to decades high level in Feb 2023.

Mian Anjum Nisar warned the authorities that inflation above 6 percent can hurt economic growth and a careful policy is required to keep it in control. He said that the pace of inflation is skyrocketing at a time when the economic activity is slowing down.

As the oil prices have been increased by another Rs12/liter and power tariff has gone up further the BMP chairman stated that the government has dropped a fuel bomb on the businessmen after it suffered an electric shock to meet the conditions of IMF for the revival of the stalled loan program—a recipe to shake the trade and industry.

The FPCCI former president said that the decision would prove detrimental to the industries due to high cost of doing business and will also open the floodgates of inflation. In addition to making the electricity bills costlier and unaffordable for the consumers, the hike in base tariff would escalate prices of all household goods being widely used in every household, he added.

**Syed Naveed Qamar to attend TIFAs' meeting**



News Desk

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Commerce Syed Naveed Qamar will attend the meeting of Trade and Investment Framework Agreements (TIFAs) which would be held at Washington.

In a Tweet the minister said: "Leaving for Washington to co-chair the Pakistan-US TIFA Councils meeting being held after eight years. An effort to boost trade and investment between the two countries."

**China refines capital and risk management of commercial banks**

News Desk

BELJING: China's banking regulator and the central bank plan to adopt a more differentiated regulatory system for assessing commercial banks' capital adequacy and risk management, in a step to better prevent risks in the country's financial system.

The China Banking and Insurance Regulatory Commission and the People's Bank of China on Saturday jointly released amended draft rules that they said aimed to help banks "continuously improve the precision of risk measurement and guide banks to better serve the real economy."

The draft rules, which bring the banking sector closer to global standards, will divide lenders into three groups based on business scale and risk level.

The rules will apply a differentiated regulatory system to banks. Lenders with a rela-

tively large scale of assets or relatively large cross-border business will be under stricter capital requirements and will have to disclose more information to regulators.

In addition, the rules will include more specific factors to measure banks' risk exposure to mortgage lending, such as the types of property, sources of repayments and loan-to-value ratios.

China's property market, once a pillar of growth, has slowed sharply over the past year, hobbled by fragile demand and mounting debt defaults by developers.

The two regulators said implementation of the new rules would leave capital adequacy ratios in the banking sector generally unchanged, though the ratios for some banks would change slightly.

The commission and central bank are seeking public comment before implementing the changes on Jan. 1, 2024.



**Pakistan's rice exports contract 16pc to \$1.08bn in 7MFY23**

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's exports of rice fell by 15.82 per cent in the first seven months of the current fiscal mainly due to the flood devastation of paddy fields in Sindh. The global economic slowdown is another reason behind less exports.

In value, the total rice exports dropped to \$1.08 billion in July-January this year from \$1.28bn in the corresponding months of last year, the data of Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) reveals.

The stagnation in export proceeds, especially of basma-

ti rice, is mainly because of several reasons particularly the under-invoicing of rice to Afghanistan and Iran under the barter trade system.

The PBS data showed that basmati exports in quantity fell by 22.95pc to 316,055 tonnes in 7MFY23 from 410,207 tonnes over the corresponding months of last year.

The non-basmati rice exports fell by 24.94pc to 1.62 million tonnes in 7MFY23 from 2.17m tonnes over the corresponding months of last year. Despite a substantial decline in exports, the prices of basmati and non-basmati increased unprecedentedly in the domestic market.

# Dominant Karachi Kings thrash Qalandars to seal maiden PSL 8 win

**A Sports -**

KARACHI: James Vince and Imad Wasim led Karachi Kings to pile a mammoth 185/5 before Akif Javed-led bowling attack powered the home side to a dominating 67-run victory over arch-rivals Lahore Qalandars in the eighth match of the Pakistan Super League (PSL) season eight.

Put into bat first, the Kings raised a mammoth 185/5 in the allotted 20 overs at the back of some vital contributions by their openers and skipper Imad.

The opening pair of Vince and Matthew Wade worked for the Kings as the pair scripted a solid start with a magnificent 70-run partnership and laid the foundation for a massive total.

Wicketkeeper batter Wade, the core aggressor of the vital opening partnership had an unlucky dismissal as he got run out; courtesy of a brilliant effort in the deep by Kamran Gulam, who cannoned in a perfect throw at the striker's end.

Wade scored 36 off just 24 deliveries with the help of four boundaries and a six.

Following Wade's dismissal, Haider Ali put on a brief partnership with Vince and looked to charge on the struggling Qalandars' bowlers before Liam Dawson castled him in the 12th over. He could score 18 off 16.

Haider's dismissal triggered a brief collapse as the Kings slipped to 124/4 in the 15th over with in-form Shoaib Malik



(10) and Vince departing in quick successions.

Vince top-scored for the Kings with 46 off 36 deliveries and hit three boundaries and two sixes.

Following the brief collapse, skipper

Imad took responsibility and launched a counter-attack on the Qalandars' bowlers to make sure his side amass a competitive total with Ben Cutting also supporting him amid death overs with his crucial 20-run cameo.

The all-rounder struck a quickfire 35 off a mere 19 deliveries, laced with two boundaries and as many sixes.

For Qalandars, Shaheen Shah Afridi, Haris Rauf, Zaman Khan and Dawson made one scalp each.

# Skipper Rohit backs Rahul despite Test batting slump

**Sports Desk**

NEW DELHI: India skipper Rohit Sharma backed his deputy KL Rahul despite an extended dry run that saw the opener fall for one Sunday during their successful second Test chase against Australia.

Rahul has failed to go past 23 in his past 10 Test innings and scored just 17 and one in the team's six-wicket win inside three days at New Delhi.

The under-fire batsman remained unlucky in his latest dismissal after his shot hit the knee of the short-leg fielder and the ball lobbed to the wicketkeeper.

Social media was abuzz with memes lampooning Rahul's dismissal. Veteran commentator Harsha Bhogle said it "might be time" for Shubman Gill to replace the deputy skipper in the third Test.

But Rohit said any batsman with potential will be guaranteed an "extended run".

"It is not just about KL but anyone," he told reporters.

"It was clear from our side that we want



him to go out and play his game. We are not going to look too much into what one individual is doing, it is about how everyone needs to come together."

Coach Rahul Dravid also backed 30-year-old Rahul to come good soon. Rahul has averaged more than 33 in

47 Tests since his debut in 2014 against Australia in Melbourne.

"I think he needs to trust his processes. This is just a phase, he has been one of our most successful overseas openers," Dravid told broadcaster Star Sports.

"He's got hundreds in South Africa and

England, we'll continue to back him. I believe he has the quality and class to come out of this."

Ravindra Jadeja remained India's hero for the second straight game after his international return from a career-threatening knee injury.

The left-arm spinner returned career-best Test figures of 7-42 and combined with Ravichandran Ashwin to pack off Australia for 113 in 31.1 overs.

Rohit lauded his man-of-the-match bowler.

"He has been brilliant. Comebacks are not easy but the confidence that guy has in his ability, that is massive. And you can see it on the field," Rohit said of his champion performer, who passed 250 Test wickets in the match.

"There were times he was put under pressure but there was no sense of panic, he just kept relying on what he is good at and he kept doing that."

The hosts have retained the Border-Gavaskar trophy in the four-match series and are now close to securing a spot in the World Test Championship final.

## Sports Board Punjab holds district level sports in Punjab to boost sports in schools

**Tahir Amin Malik**

LAHORE: Under the auspices of HEC and with the cooperation of Sports Board Punjab on the last 5th days in district levels competitions there were 657 events were organized in 36 districts. There were 4367 students players and 3419 Female students players took part in the different games. There were much enthusiasm during the five days event of players and spectators.

The players were quite happy after winning the semi finals and final in different disciplinary games. After winning the gold medals the players danced. There Principals and teachers gave the congratulation to the players after winning the Gold, Silver, and Bronze medals and they also in courage to the players who could not achieve the medals. HEC got great initiative to hold the games in district levels. The first prize amount was kept Rs.25000/- 2nd Rs.20000/-, 3rd Rs 15000/- in the individual competitions, While in team events first prize Rs 100000/- 2nd prize Rs. 75000/- 3rd prize was kept Rs.50000/-

In district levels there were 200 million expenditures spent in this games which is the huge number of amount was spent and this was record amount was kept in the history of college level sports. There were 19725 male students and 13810 female students took part in this games and total number of participation of Male and Female students took part 33535 which is also the record in the history of college level games participation. The 2nd phase the divisional level competition will be started on 21st February. There were 7848 students male and female will take part in the divisional games and for this 82 millions amount will be kept. Un district levels competitions outstanding arrangements made. The Directors and Deputy Directors Education, Colleges.

Divisional and District Sports officer and Principals played vital role to hold such a fabulous inter collegiate game with successfully who really deserve congratulation.

## Islamabad United to overcome mistakes, says Shadab Khan

**Sports Desk**

MULTAN: Captain of Islamabad United Shadab Khan said that the team would overcome mistakes in the next matches to bring improvement in performance.

During a media talk after the match at Multan Cricket Stadium on Sunday, Shadab Khan said that a captain has a major role in the victory of the team.

He said that as a captain he never accepts defeat till the last ball of the match. Shadab added that win and defeat are part of the match but working hard to overcome mistakes could change the results.

He said that the team always entered the ground with a positive mind and gave their best. He said that comprehensive planning was made by keeping in view the situation of ground and opposition.

The spinner of the National Cricket team maintained that the pitch of Multan was good as compared to the pitch of Karachi. He lauded the crowd of Multan for making the event successful.



## Happy Home School Society Campus Annual Sports Festival



**Sports Desk**

KARACHI: In the annual sports festival of Happy Home School Society Campus, Red House won the title with 34 points, Service Yellow and Faith Green jointly took the second position with 33 points, while Unity Blue won the third position with 26 points.

In the colorful sports festival played in the KMC Sports Complex, various athletics competitions as well as skipping, taekwondo and gymnastics events were organized in which a large number of students participated.

The Chief Guest Asif Azim, Media Advisor of the Pakistan Olympic Association, along with Program Director of Happy Home School System Dr. Maleeha Ahmed, School Principal Bushra Hasan, Head of Primary Section Farah Naz, Sports Teacher Muhammad Shariq Siddiqui, and Rakhshan distributed trophies, medals and awards to the successful players.

Speaking on the occasion, the Chief Guest Asif Azim said that the abilities of the students of our country are not less in any way in education as well as in sports. What is needed is that they should be provided the best sports infrastructure and a suitable platform, so that they can utilize their talent to raise the prestige of the country and the nation at the national and international level.

## Jinnah Gold Polo Cup 2023

LAHORE: A view of the final match between BN Polo and Master Paints during AR developers and Dawn bread organized by Jinnah Gold Polo Cup 2023 at Jinnah Polo Fields.



Photo: APP

## Himayat-e-Islam Khawateen colleges organized sports gala

**Tahir Amin Malik**

LAHORE: Himayat-e-Islam Khawateen colleges organized sports gala at New Garden Town, Lahore. The President Anjum-e-Hamiyat-Islam Syed Zia Hyder Rizvi inaugurated the sports gala event. On this occasion Chairman College Committee Mian Imran Masood, Secretary General Mian Muhammad Munir, Dr. Shoukat Ali, Mirza Khadum Hussain Jiral, Justice (Retd) Syed Sakhi Hussain Bukhari, Secretary College Qazi Habib Amin, and Principal Farhat-Un-Nisa, others members, college committee, Teachers and large number of students were present. The students took part in Chaati Race, Dupata Dril, Seven Race, Rasa Kashi, and other competitions. The different food stall were displayed. The Chief Guest Syed Zia Hyder Rizvi said on this occasion that the students should take part in sports activities and sports played vital role for health and there is more talent of sports in our country of girls who can bring the name of Pakistan.

# Jinnah Gold Polo Cup sponsored by AR Developers, Dawn Bread: BN Polo win title

**Sports Desk**

LAHORE: Team BN Polo defeated Master Paints 6-5½ in the thrilling final to win the title of the Jinnah Gold Polo Cup 2023 sponsored by Al Rehman Developers and Town Planners and Dawn Bread that concluded here at the Jinnah Polo Fields on Sunday.

Hamza Mawaz Khan was the hero of the day from Team BN Polo as he displayed outstanding polo skills and techniques and fired in five fabulous goals. Baber Naseem also played well and slammed in the remaining one goal. Manuel Crispo pumped in four goals while Agha Musa

Ali Khan struck one for Master Paints, which had a half goal handicap advantage.

BN Polo began the title clash with a successful conversion of 60-yard penalty to take a 1-0 lead, but Master Paints then bounced back in style and banged in two back-to-back goals to gain a slight 2-1 lead before the end of the first chukker. BN Polo started playing an aggressive game in the second chukker and hammered a hat-trick of goals to get back 4-2 lead. Just before the end of the chukker, Master Paints converted a 60-yard penalty to make it 3-4. The third chukker remained goalless as despite various efforts,

no goal was converted by either side and the match entered the fourth and decisive chukker, both the teams played excellent polo and pumped in two goals each. And when the final bell was rung, BN Polo won the final by 6-5½ despite a half goal handicap advantage for Master Paints.

Speaking at the concluding ceremony, Hamza Mawaz Khan said: "Our team worked hard and played well, which resulted in team's title triumph. The fans got a chance to watch a great match as well as title-winning performance. We are hopeful of doing well in the remaining high-goal events and try to win that too."

Earlier, Diamond Paints defeated Master Paints/Newage Cables by 8½-8 in the subsidiary final. Chulo Corti did magic with mallet and polo pony and contributed with five fantastic goals for Diamond Paints, which had also a half goal handicap advantage, while the remaining contribution came from Nico Roberts, Ahmed Ali Tiwana and Mir Shoaib Ahmed as all converted one goal apiece. Simon Prado played well for Master Paints/Newage Cables and smashed in five goals while Juan Cruz Greguol hammered three goals.

A large number of spectators were present at the Jinnah Polo



Fields to watch and enjoy the final of the Jinnah Gold Polo Cup. Chairman Al Rehman Developers Mian Muhammad Mushtaq,

Muhammad Nauman Director Dawn Bread were the chief guests and distributed prizes among the winners. Other notables present

on the occasion were JPFF President Lt Col Shoaib Aftab (R), Secretary Major Ali Taimur (R), and a large number of Lahoriters.