



Turkiye thanks Pakistan for humanitarian assistance in wake of earthquake

Turkish Ambassador Dr Mehmet Paçacı on Tuesday expressed gratitude to the leadership and the people of Pakistan for extending humanitarian assistance in the aftermath of the massive earthquake in his country. (Details on page 6)



The 260th Raising Day of the Nepali Army celebrated

Ambassador of Nepal to Pakistan Tapas Adhikari said that Nepal and Pakistan had a huge prospect of further expanding and diversifying relations for the mutual benefit of the two countries and peoples. (Details on page 6)

Simultaneously published from Islamabad, Lahore and Multan

Ahead of summer

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif chairs a meeting on Power Load Management on Tuesday.



Photo: PID

PM directs measures for improved power transmission

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday directed the authorities concerned to take timely and effective measures to improve the power transmission and load management systems ahead of the summer season. The prime minister, chair-

ing a review meeting to discuss power transmission and load management, asked the relevant departments to formulate a concrete and comprehensive plan before the onset of summer. He instructed to ensure early finalization of the strategy for better power transmission and load management ahead of summer.

Calling for minimum load shedding during Holy Ramzan, the prime minister said it was pleasing that the proportion of alternate energy and local fuels was increasing for power generation, reducing dependence on imported fuels and ultimately the import bill. Prime Minister Shehbaz, who was given a briefing on power

generation and load management, called for urgent measures to fully operationalise the Haveli Bahadur Shah Power Plant. He instructed the power and petroleum divisions and other relevant departments to improve cohesion and coordination for better power transmission and load management.

During the briefing, the prime minister was told that effective measures were being taken to put a minimum burden of the load shedding on the masses. Federal ministers Ishaq Dar, Engineer Khurram Dastgir and Marriyum Aurangzeb, Special Assistant to PM Jahanzeb Khan and senior relevant officers attended the meeting.

'Court Arrest Drive' meant to create political instability: Sana Sanaullah



City Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah on Tuesday said that Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI)'s 'Court Arrest Drive' was aimed at creating political instability, and law and order situation in the country. Chairing a meeting on law and order, he said the PTI wanted to get media attention by creating a drama through the 'Court Arrest Drive.' The miscreants should be exposed by presenting evidence of their wrongdoings before the masses, he added. The meeting which was attended by Secretary Interior Yusuf Naseem, home secretaries and inspector general's

of Punjab, Sindh and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, and others gave a detailed briefing to the minister on the law and order, especially in the wake of 'Court Arrest Drive.' The meeting decided that the miscreants would be arrested and the law and order would be ensured in the country at all costs. The arrest of women and poor workers would be avoided. He said the record of miscreants would be maintained and their activities would be mentioned in their character certificates. The minister also lauded the IG Sindh and the provincial police force for their role in countering the recent terrorist attack in Sindh.

Bilawal discusses expansion of bilateral cooperation with Lithuanian FM

News Desk

VILNIUS, LITHUANIA: Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari on Tuesday met his Lithuanian counterpart Gabrielius Landsbergis and held talks on expanding bilateral cooperation in the areas of trade, investment and education. The two Foreign Ministers, who exchanged views on regional and international issues, also signed an agreement regarding the establishment of a bilateral consultative mechanism on this occasion. Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, who was on the historic visit of Lithua-

nia and the first Pakistani Foreign Minister to visit the Baltic state, also visited the Lithuanian Parliament and laid a wreath at the monument of martyred freedom fighters. He, on this occasion, met the Speaker of Lithuanian Parliament Viktorija Milyt -Nielsen and highlighted the importance of parliamentary exchanges for the promotion of public contacts. The Foreign Minister also had a meeting with the Lithuanian Minister for Transport and Communication Marius Skuodis. The two Ministers exchanged views on expanding bilateral cooperation.



Audio leak: Bar councils to file references against SC judge

City Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Bar Council (PBC) and Provincial Bar Councils on Tuesday announced to file references in Supreme Judicial Council against Supreme Court Justice Mazahir Ali Akbar Naqvi over an alleged audio leak purportedly featuring him and former Punjab Chief Minister Chaudhry Pervaz Elahi talking about Muhammad Khan Bhatti's case. Speaking to the media, PBC's Executive Committee Chairman Hasan Raza Pasha while announcing to file reference said that Justice Mazahir violated his oath and damaged the judiciary's reputation.

Parvez Elahi embraces PTI a day ahead of momentous 'Jail Bharo Movement'

Bureau Report

LAHORE: Former Punjab chief minister and Pakistan Muslim League-Quaid (PML-Q) leader Chaudhry Parvez Elahi has joined Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) along with his 10 aides. The announcement was made after PML-Q President Chaudhry Shujaat sacked him as the party's Punjab president and revoked his basic membership. Talking to media, PTI leader and former federal minister Fawad Chaudhry said that the former Punjab CM and other leaders have finally decided to join PTI after lengthy discussions.



He said that the party welcomes Elahi and his aides as they have now set on the path towards a "new Pakistan". The former minister said, "Mr Elahi has rendered sacrifices and stood by Imran Khan through thick and thin." Fawad told media persons that the party has also decided to appoint Mr Elahi as PTI's president and the senior leadership

with former Punjab Chief Minister Chaudhry Parvez Elahi in connection with the merger of the Pakistan Muslim League-Quaid (PML-Q) with the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI). Mr Khan and Mr Elahi discussed the joint political alignment during the meeting. PTI Secretary General Asad Umar and 10 former PML-Q lawmakers and senior leaders were present in the meeting. Hafiz Ammar Yasir, Shujaat Nawaz, Abdulah Yousuf Warraich, Bao Rizwan, Sajid Bhatti, Ahsanul Haq, Muhammad Afzal, Bisma Chaudhry, and Khadija Umar Farooqi also participated.

Implementation on CPEC projects to be expedited

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and China on Tuesday reiterated to further expedite the successful implementation of China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) projects for mutual benefits of the two countries. The reiteration was made during a call on meeting of Charge'd Affairs, Embassy of the People's Republic of China, Ms. Pang Chunxue with Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar, according to press statement issued by finance ministry.

Coalition partners decide to abstain from by-polls: Marriyum

City Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Information and Broadcasting Marriyum Aurangzeb on Tuesday said the coalition government partners had unanimously decided not to contest the upcoming by-elections on vacant seats of the National Assembly. Now there would be only the "fascist party" (Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf), which would contest the by-polls and return to the National Assembly, the minister said in a statement. She said the "fascist party" was clueless about its political future. On the one hand, it had approached the courts for the approval of the resignations



of its members of the National Assembly and on the other against their acceptance. She questioned why the PTI MNAs had resigned en bloc, besides dissolving the provincial assemblies, if they wanted to contest the by-elections. The "fascist party" seemed to be in an imbroglio as it was trapped among elections, parliament and courts, she added. Marriyum said Imran Khan would no more be allowed to create chaos in the country.

Imran's predicament persists as NAB summons him, Bushra Bibi

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The National Accountability Bureau (NAB) on Tuesday summoned PTI Chairman Imran Khan, his wife Bushra Bibi, Shah Mehmood Qureshi, Fawad Chaudhry and Pervaz Khatkhat in the Toshakhana reference on March 9. The former premier, and his wife and PTI's top guns have been asked to appear before the investigators—a development which has come shortly after NAB Chairman Aftab Sultana resigned from the post. The accountability watchdog is investigating the matter of alleged racketeering of gifts by the former prime minister, which he received from other countries. NAB has obtained the records of gifts from the cabinet division and government treasury for investigation. The NAB Rawalpindi DG is supervising the investigation of the Toshakhana case. Earlier today, a district and sessions court in the federal capital approved a plea filed by PTI Chairman Imran Khan

for exemption from physical appearance in the Toshakhana case, deferring his indictment again. Additional Sessions Judge Zafar Iqbal heard the case when Mr Khan's lawyer Gohar Ali Khan and prosecutor Saad Hassan appeared in the court. As the hearing began, Gohar Ali submitted the exemption plea, saying doctors had recommended his client to take rest as he was recovering from the bullet wounds after the Wazirabad attack. Mr Hassan opposed the plea, arguing that the PTI chief appeared before the Lahore High Court (LHC) on Monday and he reached the court room on foot. He also pleaded the court to issue an order for medical examination of the former premier by a team of the PIMS hospital. The judge remarked the PTI chief had been seeking exemption at every hearing, and "we are allowing it continuously". Later, he directed the PTI chief's lawyer to ensure the presence of Imran Khan during next hearing scheduled for Feb 28.

Newly Office Bearers

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif in a group photo with newly elected office bearers of Bar Councils from across the country on Tuesday.



Photo: PID

Lawyers Protection Act to be tabled in next cabinet meeting as PM gives a nod

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday gave a nod to the approval of Lawyers' Protection Act which would be tabled before the federal cabinet in this next meeting for approval in principle.

The matter was discussed in a meeting between the prime

minister and a delegation of the newly-elected office bearers of the bar councils from across the country.

The prime minister assured the lawyers that the government would hold consultations with the lawyers regarding the appointment of judges in the higher judiciary.

Concerning the demand of the bar council representatives

for a right to appeal on suo motu notice of the Supreme Court, the prime minister asked them to present a draft bill in this regard. He assured the bar members that the government would table the said bill in the parliament.

Prime Minister Shehbaz lauding innumerable sacrifices rendered by the lawyers for the supremacy of constitution

and law, said the legal fraternity made a huge struggle for rule of law in the country.

He said the incumbent government was striving for the resolution of the issues faced by the bar councils.

The members of the delegation apprised the prime minister of the issues confronting the Pakistan Bar Council, Islamabad High Court Bar

Council as well as the provincial bar councils. The prime minister assured them of the immediate resolution of their genuine issues.

Federal ministers Azam Nazeer Tarar, Rana Sanaullah and Rana Tanveer Hussain, special assistants to prime minister Malik Ahmed Khan and Attaullah Tarar attended the meeting.

Abdul Rehman Khetran's son releases pictures of 'Abducted Children'

Bureau Report

QUETTA: After the Barkhan murders, the son of Balochistan Minister Sardar Abdul Rehman Khetran, Inam Khetran, has released the photos of the abducted children on social media.

Khetran's son released the pictures of the 'abducted children' on social media. The pictures posted on Inam Khetran's social media showed the children including the ones who had been killed and others who are reportedly alive.

The set of pictures showed the children working somewhere, whereas, a photo showed an abducted girl.

Inam Khetran said that the remaining children of Khan Muhammad Marri are still in the captivity of his father - the Balochistan minister Sardar Abdul Rehman Khetran. He claimed that Marri's elder daughter is currently present in a house in Barkhan and the son was present in a house in Quetta.

Inam said that he has presented undeniable evidence regarding the presence of children in his father's custody. He added that the abducted children were forced to work there.

He demanded the higher authorities immediately recover Marri's children.

Police raid

Earlier, police raided the minister's



house in the Patel Bagh area to recover the abducted five children of Khan Muhammad Marri. The police spokesperson said that women cops also took part in the raid.

During the raid, police searched the whole house including the guestroom. **Quetta sit-in**

The alliance of Marri tribes including the heirs of the victims staged a sit-in along with the bodies in the Red Zone of Quetta.

The sit-in of the Marri alliance is being led by its chairman Jahangir Marri. While talking to the media, Jahangir Marri said that several tribunals were allegedly kept in the private jails of the provincial minister Sardar Abdul Rehman Khetran for four years.

Marri said that the police did not register the First Information Report

(FIR). He added that Khetran is part of the Balochistan government and they want to demand justice from the Centre. He announced that the sit-in will be continued until the provincial minister Khetran is not arrested. **JIT formed**

Balochistan Home Department constituted a joint investigation team (JIT) under the supervision of DIG Loralai Division to probe into the cold-blooded murders in Barkhan.

The Balochistan Home Department appointed Deputy Inspector General (DIG) Loralai Division as the JIT chairman while other members include Senior Superintendent Police (SSP) Investigation Quetta and the representative of the Special Branch Barkhan. **Barkhan: Dead bodies in a well**

Three bullet-riddled bodies of a woman and her two sons were recovered from a well by police in Balochistan's Barkhan district.

Police said that the slain woman was the wife of a citizen namely Khan Muhammad Marri and the other bodies were identified as her two sons.

Police detailed that all three victims were killed in the firing, whereas, the woman's face was horribly distorted by pouring acid on it.

They said that the bodies were thrown into the well by the killers. It was learnt that the woman and her sons were allegedly imprisoned in a private jail of a provincial minister, said the victims' relative said, adding that five more persons were still present in the private prison.

Khetran rejects 'propaganda'

Reacting to the Barkhan incident, Balochistan minister Sardar Abdul Rehman Khetran said that propaganda is being made against him. He said that he is residing in Quetta for 10 days and he has no connection with the incident.

He also rejected the allegations of having any private jail in his constituency. Sardar Abdul Rehman Khetran ruled out the impression that every sardar or nawab has a private prison in the stronghold.

He asked the media to visit his area and spot any private jails or prison cells.

Economic policies need at least 10 years to pay off: Ahsan Iqbal

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiative, Ahsan Iqbal said here on Tuesday said that economic policies needed at least ten years to pay off.

Addressing the National Forum for Environment and Health, the federal minister said, it was usual that governments change in the world but policies do not change, however the case was different with Pakistan.

The minister said, Pakistan had no lack of capacity, resources and educated people, however due to instability in policy and political chaos, it is left behind.

Citing the example of development budget, he said, his government had left development budget of Rs1000 billion in 2018 however when four years later it again took the government, the development budget was reduced to just Rs500 billion.

He said, when Pakistan Muslim League (N) assumed power back in 2013, there was around 18 hours load-shedding while terrorism was on the rise in the country. However, within four years, 11,000-megawatt power projects were installed and \$29 billion were invested under China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), which led to economic development.

Unfortunately, 'the experience' of 2018's destroyed the country econom-



ically and CPEC projects were closed whereas the debt servicing has increased from Rs1700 billion in 2017 to Rs5200 billion now.

He said, the government was providing incentives to the private sector to take the country on the path of development.

He highlighted the importance of boosting country's exports to reduce debts. He also underlined the need for promoting environment-friendly policies adding Pakistan was among the countries most affected by climate change while the ecosystem of earth planet was deteriorating and food security problem was intensifying.

Environment-friendly policies are needed while the agenda of sustainable development goals has been adopted to end the inequality created in the world, he added.

He said, the agenda of sustainable development goals has been adopted to end the inequality created in the world.

The minister said that businesses that share profits with their employees and the region develop in the long-term.

Skilled overseas Pakistanis crucial for socio-economic development of country: NA speaker

City Reporter

ISLAMABAD: National Assembly Speaker Raja Pervez Ashraf on Tuesday said the role of overseas Pakistanis in the socio-economic development of the country was crucial.

Talking to a delegation of Overseas Pakistanis, led by Minister for Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development Sajid Hussain Turi, in Islamabad, he appreciated the hard work and dedication of overseas Pakistanis who were playing an important role to keep the country intact on the path of development and progress.

While appreciating the contribution of overseas Pakistanis, he said that the incumbent Parliament was taking all measures for the welfare of overseas Pakistanis.

He also said that incentivizing the skilled labour force to work in other countries would not only contribute to the socio-economic development of the host countries but also to Pakistan.

He stressed the need to provide youth with opportunities for learning skills especially in the field of modern technology so that they could find suitable jobs in foreign countries.

The speaker also said that resolv-



ing issues of overseas Pakistanis have been the priority of the incumbent Parliament.

He also said that remittances sent by overseas Pakistani bring economic stability to the country.

Sajid Hussain Turi appreciated the concern and support of Raja Pervez Ashraf for the welfare of overseas Pakistanis.

He also briefed the speaker about important initiatives of the government for the facilitation of overseas Pakistanis initiatives of the government to enhance skill laboured force. He said that the incumbent government would continue to strive hard for facilitating and resolving the challenges faced by overseas Pakistanis.

The delegation of Overseas Pakistanis was comprised of Shaoquett Moselamane, Dr Muhammad Shahbaz, Ch Rana Iftekhar Nadeem Ahmad, and others.

Ambassador Haque, Wang Zhizhong discuss ways to further strengthen bilateral cooperation

News Desk

BEIJING: Pakistan Ambassador to China, Moin ul Haque held a meeting with Director General of Foreign Affairs Office, Qinghai Province of China, Wang Zhizhong here at the

Pakistan Embassy in Beijing.

During the meeting, the two sides discussed ways to further strengthen engagement in diverse areas with Qinghai, especially under its sister province's relationship with Balochistan province.

Govt considers Irfan Elahi, Azam Suleman's names for NAB chief slot

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The federal government is considering the name of two former bureaucrats for the post of the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) chairman which fell vacant after Aftab Sultan stepped down over various reservations.

Sources said the names of former secretary aviation retired Squadron Leader Muhammad Irfani Elahi and former interior secretary retired Major Azam Suleman Khan, who is currently serving as Provincial Ombudsman of Punjab.

Earlier in the day, Mr Sultan resigned from the position of the NAB chairman over alleged pressure to pursue some corruption cases.

Rising humanitarian needs require political will, increased funding: UN relief chief

News Desk

UNITED NATIONS: With humanitarian needs spiraling across the world, political will and funding are required to address war, climate change and other drivers, the UN relief chief said Monday.

The world is facing the largest food crisis in modern history and famine is looming, while human rights - especially women's rights - are under attack and tensions are high in places where injustice is rife, UN Emergency Relief Coordinator Martin Griffiths said in remarks to the Riyadh Humanitarian Forum in Saudi Arabia, delivered on behalf of the Secretary-General.

Furthermore, the war in Ukraine is entering its second



year, and two weeks have passed since the devastating earthquakes in Türkiye and Syria.

"More than 350 million people around the world currently need humanitarian assistance," he said. "We need almost \$54 billion to meet the basic needs of the worst affected among them, but experience shows that we can expect to raise barely half of that amount."

These numbers continue to rise due to three main reasons:

protracted conflict, the climate emergency, and an economic collapse fuelled by the COVID-19 pandemic and the war in Ukraine.

While these "mega crises" mount, resources are not keeping up, he added.

Griffiths underscored the role humanitarians have in responding to crises, stating that their mandate and mantra is "we don't give up". However, he called for practical and tangible help in discharging this mandate.

"To end the wars and conflicts we know and to stop new ones breaking out, we urgently need a surge in diplomatic efforts," he said.

"We also need to address climate change head-on, because every flood, heat wave,

drought or super storm leaves a humanitarian crisis in its wake."

Today, humanitarians need more resources to save lives, said Mr Griffiths, sharing some of the "heartbreaking statistics".

Globally, more than 222 million people do not know when they will eat another meal, and 45 million people, mainly women and children, are already on the brink of starvation.

Over the weekend, Secretary-General Antonio Guterres announced an unprecedented \$250 million allocation from the UN's Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF).

Griffiths said the money will enable early action, but he called for donors to scale up their support.

Arrangements of 'Jail Bharo movement' finalised in PTI's Central Punjab session

Bureau Report

LAHORE: The session of the governing body of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf Central Punjab Wing was held at the party office on Jail Road in which detailed deliberation was made on the 'Jail Bharo movement'.

Detailed briefings were given to the participants by Sheikh Imtiaz Mahmood and the strategies were finalised to make the movement a success.

A ceremony would be held at the beginning of the movement in the honour of the party's senior leaders and workers who would court arrest.

Islamabad sees yet another case of gang-rape against woman

City Reporter

ISLAMABAD: The capital saw one more harrowing case of a woman becoming victim of gang-rape on Monday.

The victim approached the Shalimar police station and the police registered a case against the two wanted persons on the complaint of the woman.

The woman said she was casting around for a job and she approached these two persons. She added two men took her to an undisclosed site where she was subjected to rape.

The pain-stricken lady said she was dropped at the F-10 roundabout where both men ran away.

Killing of any non-Muslim cannot be justified under any circumstances: Tahir Ashrafi

City Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister's Special Representative for Inter-faith Harmony and Middle East Hafiz Muhammad Tahir Mehmood Ashrafi on Tuesday said the protection of non-Muslim holy places was the responsibility of Muslims as well as the state in a Muslim-majority country.

Ashrafi who is also the chairman of Pakistan Ulama Council, in a joint statement, said, "Similarly, it is also the responsibility of non-Muslims to follow the Constitution and laws of land accordingly." The Constitution and laws of Pakistan had clearly determined the rights of Muslims and non-Muslims



therefore, no individual, group, or organization should cross their constitutional parameters, he added.

He said killing of any non-Muslim could not be justified under any circumstances nor such action could be supported or endorsed in anyway.

He said it was not lawful to build or

demolish any worship place without seeking legal permission, adding that some incidents publicized in a section of media were meant to defame Pakistan in the comity of nations.

Ashrafi proposed the government to take immediate action against those individuals, groups or organizations that challenged the writ of the state.

He said the PUC leadership strongly condemned the killing of a minority person in Sarai Alamgir (Jhelum) in recent days and urged the Punjab government to fulfil its constitutional responsibility in bringing out the facts into the matter.

He said harassment of an individual or minority group could not be allowed

as the Constitution and Islamic teachings were clear in this regard.

Ashrafi, during the joint statement, was flanked by Allama Abdul Haq Mujahid, Maulana Muhammad Rafiq Jami, Maulana Asad Zakaria Qasmi, Maulana Nauman Hasher, Maulana Muhammad Shafi Qasmi, Allama Zubair Abid, Maulana Asadullah Farooq, Maulana Haq Nawaz Khalid, Maulana Ubaidullah Gormani, Maulana Muhammad Ashfaq Patafi, Maulana Tahir Aqeel Awan, Maulana Abu Bakr Hameed Sabri, Allama Tahir Al Hasan, Maulana Aziz Akbar Qasmi, Maulana Abdul Sattar, Maulana Aslam Siddiqui, and Maulana Saad Ullah Shafiq.

Women Empowerment

LAHORE: Private lady security guards patrolling on a scooty at Lahore College for Women University during Mother Language Day ceremony in the college, in Provincial Capital.



Photo: Online

TMUC holds University for the Creative Arts Graduation Ceremony 2023

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The Millennium Universal Colleges TMUC, Islamabad organized the Graduation Ceremony of International Undergraduate degrees University for the Creative Arts UCA to honour the hard work of the graduates, faculty, and staff says a press release.

The ceremony was held at TMUC Islamabad H-11/4 Campus to celebrate and acknowledge the diligent efforts of University for the Creative Arts IMBA, Undergraduate Degree Programmes, Higher National HN diplomas and IFD-NCC TMUC Islamabad and TMUC Bahria Springs, Rawalpindi.

Mr. Jamal Shah, Pakistani famous actor, Producer, and Former DG Pakistan National Courts of the Arts PNCA, graced this auspicious occasion as a Chief Guest. Jamal Shah has dedicated



most of his time and resources towards the promotion and propagation of Art and culture in Pakistan.

Founder & CEO The Millennium Universal Colleges TMUC Pakistan, Dr. Faisal Mushtaq TI, in his opening speech, congratulated the proud parents of the graduating batch while appraising the guests on the significance and

opportunities offered at TMUC. He also applauded the efforts of the TMUC management and faculty on the successful execution of another academic year.

Few of the outstanding graduates, Mahnoor Hussain, Sadia, Maheen, Ali Sheryar and Fatima Hamayon also spoke at the occasion, sharing their extraordinary experiences in pursuing

an international qualification in Pakistan commending the rich academic and extracurricular opportunities they were provided at TMUC.

At the end of the ceremony CEO TMUC Dr. Faisal Mushtaq and Dean of academics and internationalization Ms. Rabbea Irfan, Head of Institution Amber Naveed, Head of Art & Design Laraib Azhar, and Head of Social Sciences Dr. Sarina Sherazi, along with the Chief Guest Mr. Jamal Shah distributed awards to the graduates, faculty, and high achievers in academics. The graduation ceremony reflects on the pride TMUC leadership takes in its staff, faculty, students and its commitment to develop the right set of skills, attitudes, knowledge, and values within graduating millennial so that they can confidently meet the global challenges of the 21st century.

Chairman PARC Ali inaugurated climate control glass house

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: A national level seminar was organized by Arid Zone Research Center Umerkot at PARC-AZRC Umerkot to address the challenges to Biodiversity of the Thar Desert under Climate Change. The seminar was held at PARC-AZRC Umerkot. Dr. Ghulam Muhammad Ali, Chairman Pakistan Agriculture Research Council was the chief guest. Dr. Jan Muhammad Marri, Pro Vice Chancellor of Sindh Agriculture University, Dr. Imtiaz Hussain, Member PSD, Dr. Maqsood A. Gill, Member NRD, Dr. Zakir Hussain Dahri, DG, PARC-SARC Karachi included dignitaries



from PARC, research and agriculture extension departments of Sindh, academia, non-governmental organizations, and progressive farming community of Thar desert also attended the seminar.

While addressing to the

seminar, Chairman PARC, Dr. Ghulam Muhammad Ali appreciated the scientists of PARC-AZRC Umerkot for doing remarkable work for the development of Catalogue on flora of Thar with medicinal uses and descrip-

tion of separate plant species along with color pictorials and permits to publish the precious work which will be helpful for the diverse local farmers of the country.

Dr. Attaullah Khan, Director of Arid Zone Research

Center, Umerkot formally thanked the participants and presented the interventions of organization in conservation of biodiversity, ensuring food security under changing climate and models of climate-smart agriculture. He highlighted the impact of climate change on depletion of rich flora and fauna of Thar Desert and emphasized on the measures to protect nature from damages of changing climate and human activities. At this event, facility of climate control glass house was inaugurated by Chairman PARC Dr. Ghulam Muhammad Ali and dignitaries also witnessed the technical and field progress and appreciated the hard work of PARC-AZRC Umerkot team.

AJK Election Commission announced elections schedule

Bureau Report

MUZAFFARABAD: Azad Jammu and Kashmir Election Commission have announced the schedule for the elections of Chairman, Vice Chairman, Mayor and Deputy Mayor in the third phase of local body elections. According to the schedule issued by the Azad Jammu and Kashmir Election Commission, nomination papers can be submitted by the candidates for Chairman, Vice Chairman, Mayor and Deputy Mayor till 25 February 2023 at 11:00 am. Scrutiny of papers from 12:00 pm to 01:00 am will be done and after that the list of eligible candidates will be published on February 25. Appeals against the rejection of nomination papers can be filed by the candidates with the tribunal till 4 pm on February 25. On February 27, these appeals will be heard and decided by 3 o'clock, while on February 28, 2023, nomination papers can be withdrawn by the candidates until 02 o'clock, after which the final list of candidates will be published. According to the schedule released by the Azad Jammu and Kashmir Election Commission, polling will be held on 02 March 2023 from 10 am to 02 pm for the election of Chairman, Vice Chairman, Mayor and Deputy Mayor.

Government lands retrieved on orders of the ombudsman Punjab

News Desk

LAHORE: Pursuant to the Ombudsman Punjab Maj (r) Azam Suleman Khan's directions, in response to public grievances, about the illegal occupancy of government lands, three properties worth a total of Rs. 13.6 million have been reclaimed in different districts, namely, seven kanal 10 marla plot in Sargodha valued at Rs.3.5 million, an 11-marla plot in Jhang worth Rs.7 million, and a six-kanal four-marla plot in Burewala tehsil with a market value of Rs.3.1 million.

The spokesman of the Office of the Ombudsman Punjab reported this in a statement issued on Tuesday.

While giving details of the relief provided to the plaintiffs, the spokesman added that the Sialkot administration has given possession of a 20-marla plot of 14 million rupees to its legitimate owner after one Farnaz Jilani approached the ombudsman office for the same. Meanwhile, the spokesman informed that the ombudsman office moderated to ensure that the ownership of a 21.1 kanal land of Muhammad Maqsood of Pasrur tehsil was accurately documented in the revenue record. The market value of this land was assessed to be over Rs. 5.5 million.

Alongside, Assistant Commissioner Pasrur has initiated a departmental enquiry against patwari under the PEEDA Act, 2006 for issuing the wrong fard badar and sought a report from the tehsildar within 60 days.

In addition, the Punjab Housing and Town Planning Agency (PHATA) has granted possession of a three-marla plot in DG Khan to Sobia Iqbal, a complainant based in Multan, following the intervention of the ombudsman office, concluded the spokesperson.

TikTok hosts its first digital safety event

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: TikTok held its first-ever event in Pakistan as it launched its Safety Ambassadors Programme to create awareness around digital safety in the country. Boasting over 1 billion monthly active users globally, TikTok remains an entertainment platform dedicated to empowering its users. Lauded for its innovative and diverse community, another factor that has led to TikTok's popularity has been its emphatic focus on user protection and safety and the #SaferTogether campaign in Pakistan is another step in that direction for the platform.

The event featured a star-studded panel discussion including some of Pakistan's most renowned content creators, including Taimur Salahuddin (aka Mooroo), Irfan Junejo, Faiza Saleem, Amtul Haseen Baweja, Hamza Bhatti, Areeka Haq, Anoushey Ashraf and Kazi Muhammad Akber.

Speaking to a full-house audience, which included Pakistan's creators community and journalists, the panelists discussed various aspects around digital safety including misinformation, harassment and cyber bullying, online scams while advocating for responsible usage of the internet and safe content creation. Guests were also given tips and guidelines on how they could become good content creators by creating compelling content. During the question and answer session, the audience interacted with the creators and gained exciting insights into the different challenges of content creation. The campaign is a part of TikTok's goal to foster a safe and welcoming platform for its vibrant and diverse communities. With the #SaferTogether initiative, TikTok also aims to create awareness about how users can take advantage of the various in-app safety features available on the platform.

Safety of its users remains TikTok's top priority. The platform offers a centralised location for safety updates called the Safety Centre that provides updated information on all actions that TikTok implements to continuously boost safety and security on the platform. The Safety Centre also contains all the tools and tips about TikTok's safety features and measures, including the New User Safety Guide, Guide for Parents, resources on what to do to ensure safety and a thorough Privacy Guide. Furthermore, the Safety Centre is regularly updated to stay ahead of the curve and ensure proper guidelines are in place for its users.

Spotify reveals exciting music insights in celebration of its 2nd anniversary

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: In 2021, Spotify landed in Pakistan with style. Fast forward to 2023 and the music streaming service is celebrating 2 years of revolutionizing the local musical landscape. From bringing fresh talents under the spotlight to showcasing some of the country's leading female artists on billboards in Times Square, NYC, Spotify has redefined the outlook of Pakistani music both at home and abroad registering a 217% increase in musical exports over time.

Music beyond borders—Top Exports from Spotify In line with its 2nd Anniversary celebrations, Spotify is highlighting listener data-based insights that underline the resounding reach of tracks, artists and genres not just locally but globally as well. Atif Aslam became the most exported artist through Spotify over the last two years.

Bringing Fresh Voices to the Spotlight Fresh Finds, a playlist collection that showcases the best emerging artists that span a range of genres, has propelled some brilliant voices to global acclaim. Often unsigned and up-and-coming in their careers, many young artists first meet their audiences through Fresh Finds. Abdul Hannan, the first artist to feature on Fresh Finds Pakistan is a prime example with two of his tracks, "Bikhra" and "Iraaday" trending on Spotify's Chart, Top Songs Pakistan. "Bikhra" peaked at number 1 on the playlist recently, while "Iraaday" has constantly been in the Top 3 on Spotify Pakistan Charts.

Pakistani Women Musicians Conquering the World through EQUAL And that's just the tip of the iceberg. Spotify launched EQUAL Pakistan, a designated platform to promote women musicians from Pakistan on the global stage, in March 2022. Every month, a local voice is selected as Ambassador of the Month and flaunted before the world on a digital billboard in Times Square, NYC.

The Charts Toppers Since its launch in Pakistan, Spotify has become the go-to platform for music lovers in the country. The constantly growing music streams and the fact that Spotify was the most downloaded app in Pakistan in 2022, as per Data Darbar, are testament to that.



Islamabad
15° - 23° Clear

SERVICES

Namaz Timings

| | |
|---------|----------|
| Fajr | 5:23 am |
| Zohr | 12:22 pm |
| Asr | 4:18 pm |
| Maghrib | 5:57 pm |
| Isha | 7:20 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 |

ENQUIRY

| | |
|-----------------|-----------|
| Edhi Ambulance | 115 |
| PIA Flight Info | 114 |
| PIA Cargo | 9280979 |
| Railway Enquiry | 117 |
| Railway Enquiry | 9270831-5 |
| WASA Rawalpindi | 5555489 |
| CAA | 9281092 |

HOSPITALS

| | |
|---------------------|------------|
| CMH | 561111 |
| MH | 561116 |
| MH | 561116 |
| Cantt Hospital | 9270907-11 |
| DHQ | 5556311-4 |
| RGH | 9290301-7 |
| Holy Family | 9290322-7 |
| PIMS | 9261170-79 |
| Polyclinic | 9218300-09 |
| Shifa International | 4603666 |

DEPARTMENTS

| | |
|------------------------|------------|
| CDA | 9221334-43 |
| CDA | 9208301-04 |
| Met Office | 9250360-6 |
| RDA | 5555864 |
| TMA | 5770886 |
| Cantonment Board | 9270151-3 |
| Islamabad Metropolitan | |

NTDC energizes Polan-Gwadar Double Circuit Transmission Line today

Gwadar region to get additional 100 MW power from Iran through this transmission line arrangement

NTDC Headquarters, WAPDA House Lahore, 21 Feb 2023- National Transmission and Despatch Company Limited (NTDC) has successfully completed 29 km section of double-circuit transmission line from Polan to Gwadar. Pakistan's transmission system in the region will enable import of additional 100 MW from Iran through the said transmission line.

The import of additional power from Iran will be beneficial for the people of Gwadar & Makran division in terms of power adequacy, reduction in load shedding and will increase the confidence of the key business players and investors to tap the opportunities provided by the Gwadar region for their potential businesses. It is worth mentioning here that on the directives of Honourable Prime Minister of Pakistan, H.E. Mian Muhammad Shabbaz Sharif and Federal Minister for Energy, H.E. Engr. Khurram Dastgir Khan, NTDC has completed the said project within minimum possible time and after testing, it has been energized today. Federal Minister for Energy, Engr. Khurram Dastgir Khan appreciated the NTDC management on successful completion of the project.

Gen (R) Amjad Shoaib calls on President AJK

Abdul Majeed Tahir

ISLAMABAD: Defense Analyst Lt. Gen. Retd. Amjad Shoaib meeting with President Azad Jammu and Kashmir Barrister Sultan Mahmood Chaudhry at President's House Kashmir House Islamabad. On this occasion, President Azad Jammu and Kashmir Barrister Sultan Mahmood Chaudhry and Defense Analyst Lt. Gen. Retired Amjad Shoaib said that India wants to end the Kashmir issue and to thwart its nefarious intentions; an effective response will have to be given at the diplomatic level.

At present there is no assembly in Occupied Kashmir and this gap can be filled by the Legislative Assembly of Azad Jammu and Kashmir. There is a need to formulate a comprehensive strategy in this regard.

On this occasion, it was also reiterated that the speed with which India is changing the demography and constituencies in Occupied Kashmir and that it wants to end the Kashmir issue and usurp Occupied Kashmir. Therefore, these attempts by India should be vigorously countered at the diplomatic level and a clear plan of action should be taken in this regard so that India can be put on a defensive position.



Azad Jammu and Kashmir Barrister Sultan Mahmood Chaudhry and Defense Analyst Lt. Gen. Retired Amjad Shoaib.

World Mother Language day

GILGIT: Secretary Information Gilgit-Baltistan Zameer Abbas addressing during the seminar to mark world Mother Language day.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

ECP decides to seek guidance from AGP for voting date in Punjab, KP

TLTP

ISLAMABAD: After the announcement of the date of elections in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Punjab by President Arif Alvi, the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) has decided to consult the Attorney General for Pakistan (AGP) and legal experts on the matter.

In a press release issued by the ECP, the electoral watchdog said that a meeting with the AGP and legal experts — the names of whom are still under discussion — has been called for February 22 (today).

In a move that was condemned by the government as "unconstitutional and illegal", President Dr Arif Alvi had on Monday unilaterally fixed April 9 as the date for elections to the provincial assemblies

of KP and Punjab.

The TLTP learnt that in a meeting presided by Chief Election Commissioner Sikander Sultan Raja, the ECP said the president's move was discussed. "In the meeting, it was decided that the ECP will continue to take decisions as per the Constitution and without any pressure," the electoral watchdog said in the press release.

It stated that as per the law and Constitution, the ECP remained prepared to hold polls within 90 days. "But it is nowhere written in the Constitution and law that the ECP will give the date for elections. "Albeit, after the date of elections is fixed by a lawful authority, the commission is bound to issue an election schedule and hold elections," the statement said.

NTU and KOICA signed MOU

Mian Rashid Asghar

FAISALABAD: National Textile University Faisalabad and Korean International Corporation Agency (KOICA) Pakistan have signed a memorandum of understanding for a \$7.12 million project to equip the first Pak-Korea Technical Textile Research Center with more advanced technology.

The grant to the Pak-Korea Technical Textile Research Center at National Textile University Faisalabad is a timely and important decision aimed at bringing more innovation in the field of technical textiles in Pakistan and providing guidance to the Pakistani industry in achieving research and experimental objectives. This will improve the local textile industry and the export market of Pakistan.

These views were expressed by Koika Country Director Mr. Je He Yeon while signing a memorandum of understanding at the National Textile University here today. He further said that this grant is being given by the Korean government to Asia's first technical research center which is established in National Textile University Faisalabad for more advanced machinery, infrastructure, faculty and industry training. Expressing his thoughts on this occasion, Rector



National Textile University, Professor Dr. Tanveer Hussain said that in order to take Pakistan's textile industry to greater heights, Pakistan's economy will have to be moved towards high-tech textile industry, which will be helpful in medicine, sports, construction and automobile sector. There will be value addition.

Malik Abrar strongly condemned against social attitudes of Comsats University

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Central President of All Pakistan Private Schools and Colleges Association, Malik Abrar Hussain, strongly condemned the incident of creating an un-Islamic question paper against social attitudes by a professor of Comsats University, saying that unfortunately, Islam is not practiced in Pakistan. Serious efforts are being made, unseen forces have been in the field for a long time to make the curriculum secular, while the government and related institutions as well as political and social influential figures are also playing the role of silent spectators.

Making the new generation hate Islamic rites and insulting Islamic teachings will not be accepted in any way. The government should punish the professor involved in this heinous act while other administrative officers who are only watching should also be brought to book.

In his statement released from here yesterday, Malik Abrar Hussain further said that COMSATS University has a great value and status in Pakistan and it is considered as one of the good educational institutions of the country, but yesterday a professor here said that the values of Islamic, Pakistani society.

The incident of question paper preparation against A person involved in such a heinous act is not even worthy to be called a teacher because he has disgraced the sacred relationship like a teacher. These elements sell their religion and faith for a few ticks.

The government should punish such elements. While the involved person as well as the other administrative officers who passed the paper and the vice chancellor should also be brought to book. He said that if this problem is not solved soon, anarchy in the society and trust in the law will be lost.

Teachers to ensure their attendance in their institutions: Tahir Shaheen

Abdul Majeed Tahir

ABBASPUR: The President of Teachers Organisation Tahir Shaheen urged the teachers to ensure their attendance in their institutions and focus on the admissions of male and female students. We are connected to the holy profession of prophet hood. We should realize our responsibilities have completed and will continue to do so in the future. When one of my officials is sent to the Education Office, he should be replaced by a parade, but try to work after school hours. Give your work to so-and-so. The rest of the teachers should continue teaching in the schools. The leader of the teachers said, "There is no chair, pen, or panel. Now I am the president of everyone."

While addressing mammoth reception hosted by Divisional Teaching Organization he said We will do everyone's work without appropriation. It is important to maintain an atmosphere of unity and agreement, sir The wonderful and lively speech of the President, in which he paid tribute to the former education secretary Razaq Ahmad Nadeem for his endless services in education and said that the former education secretary respected the teachers and had set a time to meet with the teachers' community. Razaq Nadeem Sahib never delayed in solving the service by doing such a great job, the teachers became prosperous, the selection board was speeded up, the institutions were revitalized, the attendance of the teachers was ensured, the educational institutions started to present the scene of the past. You had given the final shape to the gradation, some of the best reforms had been put in the pipeline, after a period of long time, the education got a very dignified, talented, fearless, brave and courageous secretary. In his speech, the former Secretary Razaq Ahmad Nadeem, who has many qualities, is unable to do so in the prevailing way. He should have taken bribe. He wanted to make wealth. All said that the teachers' organization should not be put to the test when 36000 teachers are happy, students are happy, all the people are happy, why this exchange? What is the thing that is veiled?

More than two dozen teachers addressed the grand reception ceremony in Abbaspur, including the teachers Sardar Quaid Zaid Babar Sharif Hammad Khan Sahib Amin Dilshad Aftab Faizi Amanul Haque Qadir Ahtsham Sahib Khwaja Rasheed Sahib Rashid Miss Rabia Medium Adiba Sofia

Pothohari Adabi Conference held to mark Mothers language Day

City Reporter

RAWALPINDI: Pothohari Adabi Conference was organized in Punjab Arts Council with the support of Pothohari Literary Society, on the occasion of World Mother Language Day. The conference was presided over by Mr. Muhammad Sharif Shad, while Yasir Kayani, Saqib Imam Rizvi and AbidJanjua participated in the conference as special guests. The guests of honor of the conference included Ashfaq Hashmi, Shiraz Akhtar Mughal, Ahmad Raza Raja, Shamsa Noreen, Musrat Shereen, Owais Raja, Shaukat Mehmood Qazi, Javed Ahmed and Manwar Hussain. Muhammad Sharif Shad said that education in mother tongue will change the map of the world.

When teaching young children, it should be in the mother tongue, it increases the learning capacity of the children while instilling critical thinking in them. When parents do not teach their children



the mother tongue, the process of language obsolescence begins. Global cultural and linguistic harmony, unity and unity can only be established through the promo-

tion of all languages spoken in the world. Director Arts Council Waqar Ahmed said that the fact is that the mother tongue will prove to be more helpful and effective in

the matter of education and training of the child and other sciences like wisdom, philosophy, logic, science, sociology and religion. Mother tongue is not only the medium of education but also the life and future of the child.

A man can protect the requirements of social, national and individual life only through his mother tongue. Language is actually the greatest expression of any civilization, he added. He further said that Linguistic diversity has always been one of the main pillars of our civilization. The purpose of celebrating the International Mother Language Day is to protect and promote mother tongues. Various Pothohari books were also launched during the conference, including Bashe, Gash, Veer Maharo Ghor-i Charhiya, Akhian Nee Taraail, Mati Nee Khashbu, Phalan Pahari Khari, Vele Najinder, Bohri Alajan, Akhian Nee Bohe. A large number of people related to literary circles from the twin cities participated in the conference.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Whereas, Mr. Javed Hayat s/o Ghulam Hussain, R/o House No. 20, Street No. 4, Bagh Monshi, Ladhia Ravi Road, Lahore, allottee of plot No. 100-E, Area Development Scheme, Hassanabdal. After that the allottee of said plot did not record the statement in favour of Sh. Zafar Iqbal s/o Babu Ghulam Hussain. The purchaser submitted an application alongwith judgements for transfer of said plot in the light of court decree vide ex-parte decree dated 25-01-2023 by Mr. Qaisar Hussain Mari, Civil Judge 1st Class Rawalpindi.

If anyone have objection of above advertisement submit their objection within fifteen days of this advertisement otherwise objection will not be entertained.

Deputy Director Punjab Housing & Town Planning Agency Sub Region Rawalpindi

PUBLIC NOTICE

Whereas, Saeed Ahmed S/O Muhammad Ayub allottee of plot No.30-E Block "A" Lane 4 peoples colony Area Development Scheme Attock has appointed General Power Attorney to his real brother Mr. Muhammad Aqib s/o Muhammad Ayub vide registered deed No.28/4 dated 16/01/2023 from Sub Registrar Attock.

Now General Power Attorney wish to transfer his plot in the name of Saqib Khan s/o Sajawal Khan.

If anyone have objection of above advertisement submit their objection within fifteen days of this advertisement otherwise objection will not be entertained.

Deputy Director PHATA Sub Region Rawalpindi

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Pak Army assistance to Turkish Earthquake

Pak/Turk Friendship spreads over the years. Turkey has continued supporting Pakistan over the years, and the friendship between the two countries is historic. These relations have been traditionally strong, with both nations maintaining extensive cultural, commercial, strategic and military cooperation. Both Turkey and Pakistan are Muslim-majority states and share extensive cultural and geopolitical links.

Turkey established diplomatic relations soon after Pakistan declared independence in 1947, and bilateral relations became very close due to the pair's cultural, religious and geopolitical links. Pakistan's founder, Muhammad Ali Jinnah, expressed admiration for Turkey's founding leader Mustafa Kemal Atatürk and expressed a desire to develop Pakistan on the Turkish model. Jinnah is honored as a great leader in Turkey, and a major road of the Turkish capital Ankara, Cinnah Caddesi, is named after him, while roads in Islamabad, Karachi, Lahore and Peshawar, are named after Atatürk as a gesture of the love and attachment that both nations have for one another.

The sentiments of brotherhood that Pakistanis have for the people of Turkey have their roots in history. This history of Pakistani-Turkish relations is a story of concern and cooperation. They have been friends and supported each other in times of war and peace. The story of their friendship is spread almost over a century. The institution of Khilafat has occupied a very important place in the history of Islamic peoples.

The year 1947 was a crucial period in the history of the modern world. On one hand, the old order started crumbling with the partition of Europe into two separate

spheres, while on the other, the subcontinent was divided into the two independent states of Pakistan and India. The most desired dream of the Indian Muslims transformed into a reality when they got their own separate homeland in Pakistan – the "land of the pure" and a custodian of ancient civilization and culture.

Pakistan established diplomatic relations with Turkey after the partition. The Muslims of the subcontinent learned valuable lessons and gained inspiration from their Turkish brethren during their fight for independence. The crucial years of the Khilafat Movement, from 1919 to 1922, played a pivotal role in the Pakistan movement launched by Indian Muslims on a mass scale. They not only stood in support of their Turkish brethren. Malik Firoze Khan Noon, on special instructions of Quaid-i-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah, visited Turkey in December 1947 and stated that: "Pakistan admires the glorious past of Turkey and its administrative achievements and organizational abilities in the past and present times. Pakistan is now two months old, and in the near future, the two brotherly countries are going to establish close cultural, commercial and political relations. A new happy era will emerge for these two countries."

Quaid Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah, considered father of the nation and the first governor-general of Pakistan, at the time of the appointment of H. E. Mr. Yahya Kemal Beyatli as first Turkish ambassador in Pakistan on March 4, 1948, stated that: "Turkey has drawn our admiration for the valor of Turkish people and the way in which your statesman and the leaders have struggled and fought almost single-handed in the midst of Europe for your freedom and sovereignty which is worth mentioning, 'I really can assure your Excellency that the Muslims of Pakistan will entertain sentiments of affection and esteem for your country, and now Turkey and Pakistan both as free, sovereign and independent countries can strengthen their ties more and more for the good of both.'"

He also hoped that being Muslim countries, people of nations would put their genuine backing and teamwork into establishing closer political and cultural ties and thus contribute their share in the welfare and betterment of the subject of these two brotherly states.

On 6 February 2023, a 7.8 Magnitude earthquake struck southern and central Turkey, as well as northern and western Syria. It occurred 32.4 km (20.1 mi) west-northwest of Gaziantep at 04:17 am TRT (01:17 UTC), with a maximum Mercalli intensity of XI (Extreme). A Mw 7.7 earthquake occurred nine hours later, centered 95 km (59 mi) to the north-northeast in Kahramanmaraş Province. The devastated Earthquake took around 50000 lives and many people are still under the damaged structures. Loss of infrastructure is also huge.

Many days after the earthquake, there are still signs of life under the rubble, many people, including children, have been pulled out alive, while rescue workers are still searching for people buried in

the rubble of buildings in freezing weather for days and nights.

According to reports, many people are still feared to be trapped under the debris, rescue operations are going on day and night to get them out, but due to severe cold and snowfall in some areas, the victims are facing difficult conditions and there are difficulties in rescue operations. Thousands of people have been rescued from the rubble of buildings in Turkey.

Meanwhile, the rescue teams of the Pakistan Army have also been participating in the rescue operation and have rescued many people alive. A local rescue team rescued a 10-day-old baby and his mother in Hatay city. This is just one example while Pak Army have rescued many people in reality. Rescue operations of the Pakistan Army are ongoing in the earthquake-affected province of Adiyamanas well.

Despite the minus 8 degree temperature, the Pakistan Army troops are continuing the rescue activities, the rescue teams of the Pakistan Army have identified the living people buried under the debris at 3 places, the work of removing the debris is going on. The rescue teams of the Pakistan Army pulled out many bodies from the debris and handed them over to the heirs. Turkish people are appreciating the services of Pakistan Army soldiers in the earthquake affected areas.

Readers, Pak Army is using its experience of 2005's earthquake and putting in all efforts and energies to help the brother and friend country. The role of Pak Army in assisting the Turkish Earthquake affected is remarkable and appreciable. These notable efforts are token of friendship and unity with the people of Turkey.

PBS launch of portal for digital census

Minister of Planning, Development and Special Initiatives (PD&SI), Prof. Ahsan Iqbal appreciated Pakistan Beauru of Statistics (PBS) on successful launch of the first milestone i.e., Self-Enumeration Portal "An Innovation" and directed all stakeholders for following the timelines of Census and assure credible, reliable and transparent Census.

Professor Ahsan Iqbal, PD&SI chaired the sixth meeting of Census Monitoring Committee (constituted in pursuance of decision taken in 49th meeting of Council of Common Interest (CCI) to oversee/ monitor Census activities to ensure an expeditious, transparent and credible census operation), said a press release issued here.

The meeting was attended by Members of Committee from all relevant departments and stakeholders o which includes Chief Secretaries of all provinces, Secretaries, DG Military Operations Directorate, SMBR, and senior officers from Education Department, NADRA etc.

The main purpose of the meeting was to review the progress regarding the activities of first-ever Digital census and allied matters regarding field operations, Financial requirements etc.

Chief Census Commissioner, Dr. Naeem uz Zafar, presented in detail the progress on activities of 7th Population and Housing Census related activities.

He apprised the chair about the progress main milestone that PBS and other Stakeholders have achieved and Self- Enumeration Portal, have been launched successfully on February 20, 2023, through which data can be entered from February 20, 2023 to March 3, 2023 which will facilitate users in the census process for getting them counted.

It was informed that after opening of Self-Enumeration portal, 809,928 people have visited the portal and data of 9682 families have enumerated themselves successfully in less than 24 hours.

He further informed that PBS is all prepared to start the gigantic Field Exercise of 7th Population and Housing Census as per given timelines i.e., from March 1, 2023 to April 1, 2023.

The matter of possibility of inclusion of CNIC number in the census software was deliberated in detail for identification of Aliens.

After detail deliberations and consent of stakeholders it was decided that all efforts may be made to include it in software for collection of credible data and before the census field operations for data collections.

However, Provincial governments must give their written consent within two days regarding the matter. Further data of all persons will be collected either they have CNIC or not as per the objective of Census.

Minister of Planning, Development and Special Initiatives emphasized on the authenticity of Census process which is a huge National exercise.

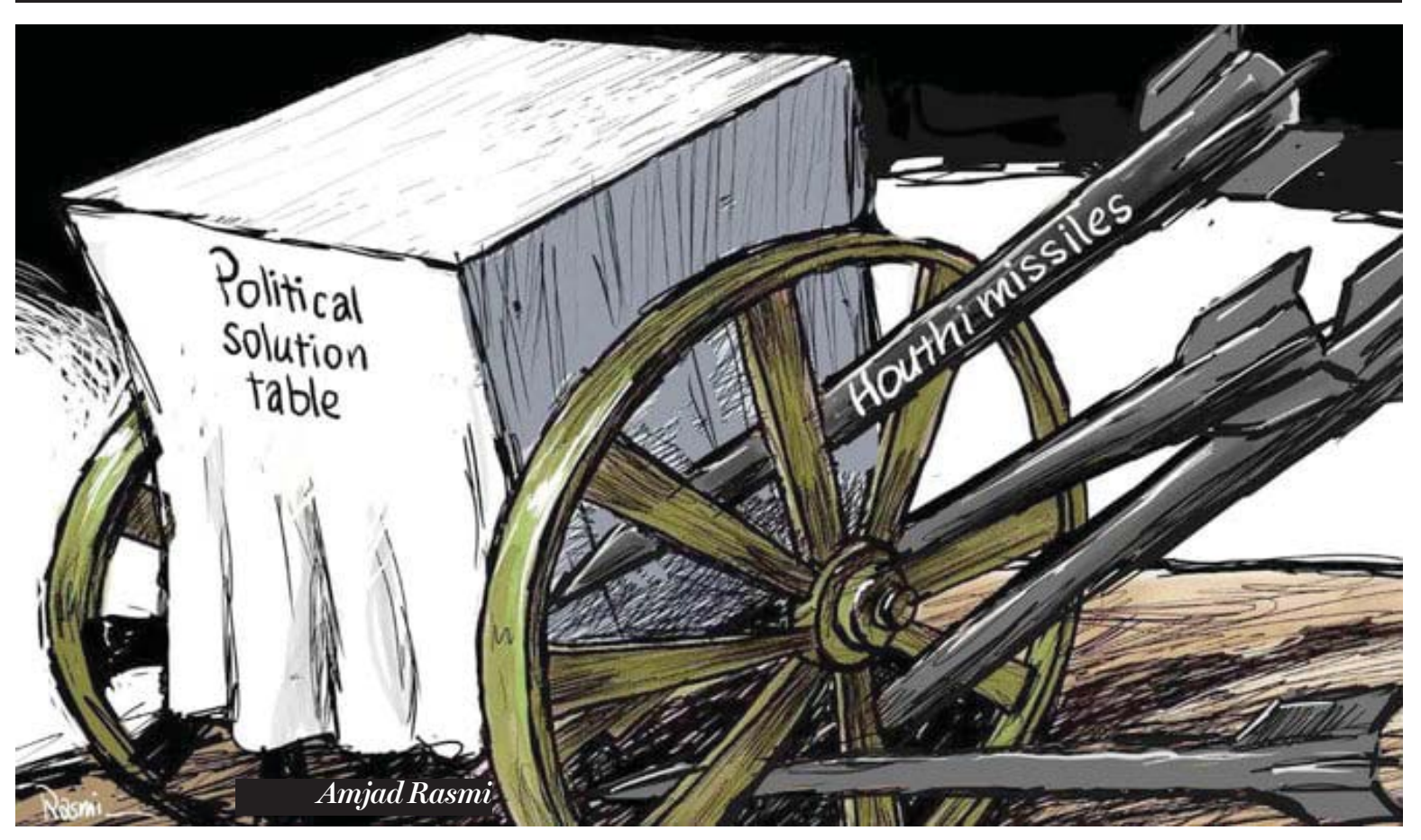
He said there should be no compromise on timelines. Census should be transparent and will be successful with the joint efforts of all organizations involved. Provinces should be onboard and consensus must be made on all issues to avoid any controversy and effective utilization of resources.

PBS along with collaborating partners ensured that the Census process will be conducted with full dedication within approved timeline i.e., March 1, 2023 to April 1, 2023, and they will jointly make it possible to provide reliable data for evidence0 based policy making.



Analysis

Abdul Basit Alvi



Amjad Rasmi

Cattle farming vital to alleviate poverty in rural areas

Choudhary Saleem Ullah

Livestock is considered as precious asset not only to run kitchen smoothly on daily basis but also help meet expenditures in any emergency situations.

About 70 percent of the rural population in the culturally rich region of south Punjab is directly linked to the livestock sector. The presence of animals is tantamount to cheque which could be cashed at any time.

Livestock had over 14 percent share in gross domestic product (GDP) of the country. It has immense potential not to alleviate poverty in rural areas but can also revolutionize the living standards of the people.

Pakistan is ranked fifth milk producing country. The production of milk and meat could be enhanced significantly by working on animals' genetics.

The best semen quality could play a vital role in improving animals' health, milk and meat production. Similarly, it could also help generate maximum income for the farmers as well as the country's economy.

At national level, about eight million people are rearing cattle. According to the animal census and Economic Survey Report, there are 53.4 million big animals in the country.

In rural areas, it is very easy to rear animals because of the cultural environment, easy access to infrastructure and nutrition. In rural communities, the role of women farmers in cattle rearing is highly important.

Without women farmers' participation, the livestock sector could not be managed properly, said Deputy Director Livestock Dr Jamshaid Akhtar while talking to APP.

He said that livestock was performing an

important role in poverty alleviation in rural areas. He recalled that the government had launched a special initiative to provide buffalo and cow to widow women, especially hailing from rural areas.

The government had a very unique idea to provide animals to those widows whose children were availing school education.

The Livestock Department provided a good number of small and big animals to the widows after thorough verification from schools concerned. The widow women are now successfully running their kitchen.

Parveen Bibi, wife of late Muhammad Bilal and resident of Mauza Sabra in Jalalpur Pirwala, who got one big animal in 2017, told APP, "I own one buffalo and one calf and it is a good source of regular income".

She said that she had also earned Rs 150,000 by selling another three calves of the Buffalo. She expressed pleasure and thanked the government for the provision of buffalo which helped her to overcome economic woes.

Majahid, another poor citizen, and resident of Chowk Shah Abbas informed that he was very much eager to sacrifice animals on occasion of Eid ul Azha. He informed that he purchased a small animal against Rs 6000 and nurtured it for the whole year. He expressed pleasure and shared that he sacrificed the animal for first time in his life.

Similarly, another two widow women farmers Aseya Bibi and Amna Bibi, residents of Jalalpur Pirwala also shared their success stories and praised the government for creation of economic opportunities on a regular basis for their families.

Razziah Bibi, another female farmer from Rangshah area, informed that she got animals on a sharing basis from an investor, a few years ago. Razziah recalled that she was a poor maid

before starting the profession of cattle rearing. She stated that she owned 20 animals.

Muhammad Yousuf Khan, another cattle farmer, who also completed six months diploma for Cattle Farm Manager from Muhammad Nawaz Sharif University of Agriculture (MNSUAM), informed that he had 16 animals. Yousuf informed that his son was also a student at Agriculture University Faisalabad.

Yousuf remarked that he used to sell one animal for payment of semester fee. Animals are a good asset in an emergency situation, he hinted. I also managed expenditures on marriages of my two younger brothers by rearing cattle, he remarked.

Dr Jamshaid Akhtar also observed that Livestock department launched various programmes including calf fattening, save buffalo calf, advisory service, provision of free of cost animals, poultry units on subsidised prices.

He stated that production of meat and milk could be enhanced by following certain steps including using of silage, promotion of Rhodes grass etc. High genetics animals should also be promoted.

In case, there is no price capping on milk and meat, there can be more growth because people will invest in the sector. Although, there will be competition but it will surely enhance profitability and ultimately lead to immense productivity.

He informed that Livestock department was also vaccinating animals as it imported viral vaccinations recently. The government should also focus on improving quality seeds for fodder.

Apart from this, government should offer interest free loans to farmers so that they would be able to purchase animals and prepare cattle-pen on a per latest trends. He also urged people to rear cattle as it is a highly profit generating business.

PBM brings about positive change through life-changing initiatives

Umer Shabbir Ghumman

Pakistan Bait-ul-Mal (PBM) is making all possible efforts to address issues pertaining to socio-economic imbalance with its life-changing humanitarian and social protection initiatives at national, provincial, divisional, and district levels.

The PBM has been significantly contributing towards poverty alleviation through its various pro-poor services by helping destitute, widows, orphan, invalid, infirm and other needy persons since its establishment in 1991 through the Act of Parliament.

The institution had revolutionized lives of millions of people by improving their social order through different initiatives in various areas from health to education and other various forms of assistance.

Hafeez Ahmad, a beneficiary of PBM hailed from Attock while describing his ailment, told APP that at the age of 21 he was diagnosed with kidney failure.

Due to poor financial circumstances and lack of medical insurance, he was getting delayed in medical treatment. However, the PBM took the responsibility by providing financial assistance that enabled him to get the dialysis done.

Ameer Sultan a biomedical engineer in a private lab said he had completed primary education at PBM School for Rehabilitation of Child Labour (SRCL) Multan. "I am proud of my teachers who have been helpful and supportive in my education and enable me to get this employment," he maintained.

Managing Director Pakistan Bait-ul-Mal, Amir

Fida Paracha while highlighting the objectives of the organization said that social protection for vulnerable people is playing a vital role in inclusive and balanced growth in developing countries.

He said, "The PBM's primary aim is to contribute towards poverty reduction in the country involving the strategic use of tools such as access to healthcare, education, socio-economic rights, self-reliance, women empowerment and rehabilitation."

He noted that he was determined to implement e-governance and digital infrastructure within the organization to reduce response time and to increase transparency, better workflow and efficient information management through shared databases, effective targeting management, and accountability through transaction tracking.

To a query, Mr Paracha said awareness of these services was equally important for community engagement and the public-private partnerships in social services.

Reaffirming the Federal Government's resolution for the well-being of deprived persons, he said he was committed to support the poor, widows, orphans, disabled persons and other vulnerable segments of the country.

Commenting on future projects, he said his organization was fully focused on accelerating the execution of expansion strategy while continuing to strengthen the organization.

The spokesperson of the PBM said that all information regarding the assistance programs and the procedure to apply for assistance was available on the official website of PBM.

"Needy people may call on toll-free number 0800-666 66 or write an email at info@pbm.gov.pk for any query or information," he added.

IS 260th Raising Day of the Nepali Army celebrated

Nepal, Pakistan to expand relations for mutual benefit: Envoy



Naveed Ahmad Khan
Photos by Ghulam Farid

ISLAMABAD: Embassy of Nepal celebrated the 260th Raising Day of the Nepali Army in Serena. On the occasion Ambassador of Nepal to Pakistan Tapas Adhikari said that Nepal and Pakistan had a huge prospect of further expanding and diversifying relations for the mutual benefit of the two countries and peoples.

High official of Pakistan Armed Forces also attended the event. Tapas Adhikari, the Ambassador of Nepal to Pakistan hosted the event. Nepal embassy Military Attaché Colonel Amrit Kaji Gurung was also part of the festivities.

Ambassador said, "One important facet of the Nepal-Pakistan relations is military-to-military cooperation between the armies. Both the army has close and friendly relations. They support each other in eacekeeping operations."

He said that Nepal and Pakistan enjoyed excellent bilateral relations. The establishment of formal relations in 1960 between the two neighbouring countries had further strengthened it, he added.

The envoy said the bilateral relations were based on goodwill, mutual trust and cooperation. He said "Both countries hold similar views on many issues

of common interests. People-to-people contacts, trade and economic cooperation are part of bilateral relations."

The ambassador said Nepali Embassy in Islamabad had been working closely to expand and deepen our relations.

About the Nepal Army, he informed the audience that, established in 1762 AD, Nepali Army was one of the oldest and continuously serving army institutions in the world with a rich history of dedication and bravery.

Nepali Army was the main organ of the national security of Nepal and the first standing army in Asia which had a continued and unbroken history since its establishment, he added.

The Nepali army is renowned for its professionalism. Over the centuries, Nepali Army has embraced the change in accordance with the change of time and political will of the country and taken up new and emerging roles.

In addition to its regular responsibility of national security, the Army is also involved in non-traditional jobs such as disaster risk management, and nature conservation as well as in various infrastructure developmental works.

As part of Nepal's commitments to global peace and security, the Nepali Army has regularly contributed to UN peacekeeping operations around the world since 1958.



In the last 65 years, more than 145,000 army personnel have contributed to global peace and order. 72 Nepali peacekeepers have made the ultimate sacrifice in the line of duty while serving the United Nations peacekeeping operations.

Nepal and the Islamic Republic of Pakistan officially established diplomatic ties on 20 March 1960. In 2019, both countries celebrated the 60th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations.

Along these lines, Nepal established a residential Embassy in Islamabad in 1962 followed by an Honorary Nepali Consulate General in Karachi in 1975. The two partners enjoy cordial diplomatic relations.

The two countries collaborate in a myriad of fields which include trade,

strategic and military cooperation. Both states also signed agreements to reciprocate the "Most Favored Nation" status of significance to boost trade and cooperation.

Pakistan also agreed to provide Nepal with free trade access and transport facilities via the port of Chittagong in East Pakistan (now Bangladesh) along with establishing an air link in 1963.

In the political realm, Pakistan, subsequent to the successful People's Movement-II, also supported the democratic process in Nepal. Pakistan has been reiterating its support for Nepal's territorial integrity, sovereignty, and peaceful development ever since.

Aside from the political domain, the two partners also collaborate in



the fields of economy and education. Pakistan provides diverse scholarships to Nepal's citizens in different fields and subjects.

KC-EU's Chair Ali Raza Syed for early release of Khurram Parvez

Sohail Anjum Malik

BRUSSELS: Chairman Kashmir Council EU Ali Raza Syed has called on the international community to put pressure on India to release world-renowned Kashmiri human rights leader Khurram Parvez and other Kashmiri Human rights activists and Kashmiri political leaders, political workers and journalists.

He said this after attending the Martin Ennals Award ceremony in Geneva. The Martin Ennals Foundation presented the award to Khurram Parvez, who is also the head of the Asian Federation Against Involuntary Disappearances (AFAD), for his valuable services to the human rights of Kashmiris.

Eminent Kashmiri activist Khurram Parvez could not receive the "Martin Ennals" award in Geneva in person due to his imprisonment in an Indian jail in New Delhi. Another human rights activist and campaign manager of the Asian Federation Against Involuntary Disappearances, Mohammad Ashrafuzzaman, received the award on behalf of Khurram Parvez. After receiving Khurram Parvez's award, Ashrafuzzaman read Khurram Parvez's message and also talked about his difficulties in jail. In his message, Khurram Parvez thanked the award committee of Martin Ennals Foundation for conferring this prestigious award. He said that although the voice of Kashmiris is not being heard in the

world, this award is an acknowledgment of the unheard suffering of Kashmiris for many decades. Chairman Kashmir Council EU Ali Raza Syed said that the human rights violations in Occupied Kashmir have been highlighted in this award ceremony and it was also told in the event that Khurram Parvez, who has been imprisoned under baseless accusations for the past fifteen months, is living in a critical condition in the India's Rohini prison. It was told in the event that how Khurram Parvez struggled to present the facts about human rights violations in Occupied Kashmir to the whole world. The unbiased reports on human rights violations prepared by Khurram Parvez and his team are the documen-

tary evidence of Indian atrocities against the oppressed people of Kashmir. Organizers of the event also demanded early release of Khurram Parvez. A documentary on the rights of people in Occupied Kashmir was also screened during the event in Geneva, which talked about the Kashmir conflict and how the people of Occupied Kashmir have been suffering from this dispute for seven decades? Chairman Kashmir Council EU said that the manner in which Khurram Parvez's struggle for human rights was described in this international event and the award was presented to him, is a great acknowledgment and this will give recognition to the rights of Kashmiris at the international level.

Sanjrani, Italian ambassador stress enhancing people-to-people contacts

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Senate Chairman Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani and Italian Ambassador to Pakistan Andreas Ferrarese on Monday emphasised the need to enhance people-to-people contacts and strengthen bilateral ties between Pakistan and Italy.

Italian Ambassador to Pakistan Andreas Ferrarese met the Senate Chairman at the Parliament House in Islamabad. The meeting was held in a cordial and friendly atmosphere, reflecting the strong and long-standing relationship between Pakistan and Italy.

During the meeting, the two discussed a wide range of issues of mutual interest, including bilateral relations, economic



cooperation, and regional security. The Italian Ambassador expressed his country's keen interest in further enhancing its economic and trade ties with Pakistan and reiterated Italy's support for Pakistan's efforts to achieve sustainable economic growth and development.

Turkiye thanks Pakistan for humanitarian assistance in wake of earthquake

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Turkish Ambassador Dr Mehmet Paçacı on Tuesday expressed gratitude to the leadership and the people of Pakistan for extending humanitarian assistance in the aftermath of the massive earthquake in his country.

Addressing a news conference, he said the earthquake, centred in the Kahramanmaraş province, jolted the southern Türkiye and affected more than 13 million people across 11 provinces, including Adana, Adiyaman, Diyarbakir, Gaziantep, Hatay, Kilis, Malatya, Osmaniye, Sanliurfa and Elazig.

"It was one of the biggest earthquake disasters in the last century. Many buildings collapsed and the damage was huge," he said. Neighbouring countries, including Syria and Lebanon were also affected by the earthquakes, he added.

The ambassador said yesterday, two more major earthquakes of 6-4 and 5-8 magnitude hit the Hatay province again, resulting in new losses and injuries. To date at



least 41,000 people had lost their lives and 105,000 people injured due to the massive earthquakes.

He said more than 250,000 search and rescue personnel were currently in the field, whose work was coordinated by the Turkish Disaster and Emergency Management Presidency-AFAD.

As regards the international help, Dr Mehmet Paçacı said as many as 102 countries offered assistance while nearly 5,000 personnel from 59 countries were on the ground for search and rescue operations.

He said the Government of Pakistan and its people were among the very first responders to the earthquake disaster. From the very beginning, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif got in touch with the Turkish authorities, and his recent visit to Adiyaman meant a lot for the people of Türkiye.

The PM also announced that every possible support and aid would be provided to Türkiye to heal the wounds of the people of its earthquake-affected areas, the ambassador added.

Lauding other initiatives of the Government of Pakistan, he said the opening of a bank account to collect relief funds for Türkiye and the initial dispatch of some 8,000 blankets and 4,000 winterised tents to the earthquake-hit areas were commendable steps.

Nearly 3,000 winterised tents and 25,000 blankets were on the way to Türkiye by road, he added. "This week and next week more than 4,000 winterised tents will be sent to Türkiye in chartered cargo flights."

In addition to the airway and roadway, he said, a maritime bridge would also be established. A Pakistani Navy ship with 3,500 tents would start its journey from the Karachi Port in the first week of March and arrive at Türkiye-Mersin Port in 13 days.

Dr Mehmet Paçacı expressed the hope that Pakistan, being the leading tent-producing country in the world, would be providing the most needed winterised tents to his country.

He said the USAR (Urban Search and Rescue) teams of 84 staff, including army personnel and 1122 rescue teams, were



dispatched to Türkiye on the first day of the disaster, and they were among the very first USAR teams to reach the earthquake-affected areas.

"They have saved many lives, and retrieved 28 people alive from the rubble, including a

10-year-old boy after 137 hours," he noted.

"We are receiving hundreds of support messages and calls from also all provinces and walks of Pakistani society. Pakistani NGOs (non-governmental organisations), including Paki-

stan Red Crescent and universities are also in contact with our embassy and with our consulates-general.

"We feel their prayers deep in our hearts and we believe that we will overcome this disaster with their invaluable support."

Bull & Bears
PSX 100-Share
Index Fluctuation

| Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index | |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Current | Prev. Close |
| 40,949.84 | 40,673.64 |
| Day's High | Day's Low: |
| 40,966.71 | 40,673.64 |
| Index Value | Change |
| 4,088,156,603 | + 276.20 |
| Percentage | Time |
| + 0.68% | 21 Feb, 2023 5:00 pm |

| Europe: FTSE 100 Index | |
|------------------------|------------------------|
| Index Value | Change |
| 7,977.75 | -36.56 |
| Percentage | Time |
| - 0.46% | 21 Feb, 4:35 pm GMT |

| USA: Dow Jones Industrial Average | |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Index Value | Change |
| 33,282.10 | -544.59 |
| Percentage | Time |
| -1.61% | 21 Feb, 11:54 am GMT-5 |

| Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average | |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Index Value | Change |
| 27,473.10 | -58.84 |
| Percentage | Time |
| - 0.21% | 21 Feb, 3:15 pm GMT+9 |

Open Market Forex Rates

| Currency | Buying | Selling |
|-------------------|--------|---------|
| Australian Dollar | 179 | 182 |
| Bahrain Dinar | 695.94 | 703.94 |
| Canadian Dollar | 194 | 196.2 |
| China Yuan | 38.18 | 38.58 |
| Danish Krone | 37.56 | 37.96 |
| Euro | 279 | 281.8 |
| Hong Kong Dollar | 33.41 | 33.76 |
| Indian Rupee | 3.16 | 3.27 |
| Japanese Yen | 2.06 | 2.11 |
| Kuwaiti Dinar | 854.05 | 863.05 |
| Malaysian Ringgit | 59.06 | 59.66 |
| New Zealand \$ | 163.68 | 165.68 |
| Norwegians Krone | 25.78 | 26.08 |
| Omani Riyal | 679.67 | 687.67 |
| Qatari Riyal | 71.89 | 72.59 |
| Saudi Riyal | 69.80 | 70.50 |
| Singapore Dollar | 194 | 196 |
| Swedish Korona | 25.32 | 25.62 |
| Swiss Franc | 283.63 | 286.13 |
| Thai Bhat | 7.61 | 7.76 |
| U. A. E Dirham | 71.80 | 72.50 |
| UK Pound Sterling | 316.50 | 319.50 |
| US Dollar | 263 | 265.50 |

Provincial IT Minister applauds Founders 2.0 for providing a modern coworking facility

Commerce Desk

KARACHI: Founders 2.0, a new co-working space launches its first facility in Karachi, adding another 144 seats to the capacity of 15,000+ existing seats in the market nationwide.

Founders 2.0 hosted an exclusive dinner to commemorate its vision, which The Provincial IT Minister attended on a special invitation requesting her presence at the affair. Miss Tanzila Umi Habiba, Provincial IT minister & member of the Sindh Provincial Assembly as well as the Chairman of the Standing committee on Higher, Technical Education and Research in Sindh, continually praised Founders 2.0 for creating a state-of-the-art facility for tech startups to grow and thrive from while adding tremendous value to the startup ecosystem of Pakistan.

"Founders 2.0 seems to be a dynamic and promising project. Pakistan needs more progressive facilities such as this one to facilitate the young entrepreneurs & thriving tech startups of Pakistan." Said Ms. Tanzila. "I hope they succeed in their vision by enabling synergies and growth across the tech sector, especially during these tumultuous economic times. We will continue to support their initiatives." She added.

Various prominent political figures & leaders like Pir Muhammad Sadiq, Chairman of



Luari Pak Group as well as Pir Noorullah; Special Assistant to Chief Minister Sindh were also present at the dinner alongside Hollywood film producer, Habib Paracha & Asmar Naim;

Director at K-electric. The event was attended by one of the only unicorn founders in the country presently, Jonas Deizun—the ex Co-Founder of Razor group

that went on to raise over USD 1 Billion. Jonas & his team are currently working on a generative AI-based tech startup, BeamSo and occupy private offices in Pakistan at Founders 2.0's Facility.

Other attendees of the launch include several stakeholders in the corporate world and startup fraternity including Rabeel Warraich, Founder & CEO Sarmayacar, Jamil Mughal, CEO of McDonald's & Director at Lakson group, Hassan Khan, Founder of Trax, Rafay Sheikh, CEO of Dunkin, Akbar Jaffer, CEO ASSL and Jaffer Group, Owais Shaikh of Hubpay, Raza Afzal, co-founder of Truck it in, Kassim Shroff and Ahsan Kidwai, founders of Krave Mart, Muneeb Maayr, founder of Bykea, Adeel Rashid, Co-Founder of Snapp retail & Chairman Of The Supervisory Board, AIESEC, Haider Raza, Co-founder of Dealcart, Ahmed Ayub, Co-founder of Airlift, Muzaffar Manghi, Co-founder of farmidar, Talha Khan of Orko, Taha Iqbal Teli and Ahsan Ali Khan of Zaraye, Khurram Shroff, President of imining Technologies, Ali Ladubhai of Abhi, Usama Nini, co-founder of queros and CEO of Affinity; Usman Khan & Pir Saleh Qureshi; Director at Stylight textiles. The event was also attended by The co-founders of Swich; Shah Aun Hussan and Syed Aoon Shah who is also the the Investing partner at Founders 2.0.

MMBL and SCBF commit to fostering financial inclusion

Commerce Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Mobilink Microfinance Bank Limited (MMBL) is partnering with the Swiss Capacity Building Facility (SCBF), a Switzerland-based innovative public-private platform, and the Arab Gulf Programme for Development (AGFUND), a Saudi Arabia-based development organization, to enhance its capacity to offer innovative and "fast-tracked" banking solutions to the unbanked and underbanked in Pakistan. SCBF has funded over 188 projects across 48 countries to date, with this being their second project in Pakistan.

MMBL is part of the VEON group, a global digital operator that provides converged connectivity and online services across seven countries. As part of its digital operator strategy, VEON is transforming people's lives by creating opportunities

for increased digital inclusion and by driving economic growth across countries that are home to more than 8% of the world's population.

The two-year project, which will be implemented by Swiss-based consultancy firm Business & Finance Consulting (BFC), specifically aims to strengthen MMBL's credit processes and outreach, with the ultimate goal of laying a foundation for communities across Pakistan to be able to have livable incomes, long-term employment opportunities, and personal growth & development. The potential outreach under the project is expected to be around 0.4 million with the majority of the clients coming from rural areas and at least 35% of them being women. Under this partnership, MMBL is committed to revolutionizing the digital banking ecosystem by implementing innovative technologies

to deliver affordable and accessible financial solutions to women, small businesses, farmers, and other financially-excluded groups. The core objective of the arrangement is to increase the credit risk capabilities of MMBL in their loan offering/servicing for target businesses, particularly women, mainly in rural areas.

At the project signing ceremony, Ghazanfar Azzam, President and CEO MMBL shared, "This partnership with SCBF and AGFUND will enable MMBL to deliver a superior banking experience through technology and offer innovative digital financial solutions to meet the increasing banking needs of our growing customer base. Through this collaboration, MMBL will foster responsible and inclusive financial solutions in Pakistan by expanding its reach and bringing more unbanked individuals, especially women under the financial fold."

SAP's Objective is to Bring Positive Change in the Lives of People through Digital Transformation



Commerce Reporter

ISLAMABAD: SAP's Senior Vice President Middle East and North Africa, Ahmed Al-Faifi, on his visit to Pakistan, met with Federal Minister for Planning, Development & Special Initiatives, Mr. Ahsan Iqbal, Chairman Higher Education Commission (HEC), Dr. Mukhtar Ahmed and Secretary Railways, Mr. Mazhar Ali Shah. He also attended The Future Summit's 6th Edition, organized by the Nutshell Group in Karachi.

During his meeting with Secretary Railways, Mr. Mazhar Ali Shah Mr. Ahmed Al-Faifi expressed gratitude to Pakistan Railways Management for bestowing their trust into SAP and shared his commitment to support Pakistan Railways in their digital transformation journey.

Accompanied by Saquib Ahmad, Country Managing Director, SAP Pakistan, Ahmed Al-Faifi also met with Chairman HEC, Dr. Mukhtar Ahmed, about the new initiative for enrolling young university students for IT trainings across Pakistan. Ahmed Al-Faifi reiterated SAP and HEC's over 15 year long relationship and committed to the agenda of providing free technology training to students, with an aim to impart skills that are key to the technology sector's growth.

During his meeting with Federal Minister for Planning, Development & Special Initiatives, Mr. Ahsan Iqbal, the discussion revolved around how to improve the technological dynamics of Pakistan to expedite the growth. Mr. Al Faifi said; "The commercial enterprises and the government sector are benefitting from SAP's business solutions for efficient service delivery in the public sector. Financial, HR, audit and numer-

ous other SAP core business applications are contributing to Pakistan's global standing in terms of transparency."

Meeting

ISLAMABAD: A delegation of M/s Rothschild & Co comprising Eric Lalo, Partner and Thibaud Fourcade, Managing Director called on Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar at the Finance Division.



Photo: APP

Punjab Govt. to assist ICCI for establishment of Industrial Estate

Tariq Khattak

ISLAMABAD: S.M. Tanveer, Minister for Industries, Commerce, Investment and Skills Development Department, Government of Punjab lauded the efforts of ICCI for the establishment of an industrial estate in the Islamabad region and assured that the Punjab Government would soon send its team to Islamabad to conduct a survey of land and prepare a feasibility study for the implementation of project at a place near Islamabad. He said this while talking to a delegation of Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry that called on him at Punjab Secretariat Lahore led by Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, President.

S.M. Tanveer said that he was planning to hold a roundtable with the chambers of commerce



& industry of Punjab to discuss the key issues of the business community and assured that ICCI would also be invited to the said meeting to get its input. He said that being the Capital Chamber, ICCI should play a lead role in resolving the issues of the business community. He said that the business community should give concrete and workable recommendations that would help resolve issues and facilitate the growth of business activities.

Speaking on the occasion,

Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry said that many potential investors are ready to set up industries in Islamabad for which a new industrial zone is the key requirement. He said the Punjab Government should assist ICCI for this project by allocating suitable land at a place with easy access to the twin cities.

Faad Waheed, Senior Vice President ICCI said that industrialization is key for better economic future of Pakistan

and emphasized that the Punjab Government should fully cooperate with ICCI in its efforts for a new industrial zone in the region.

Khalid Iqbal Malik, Group Leader ICCI said that Pakistan needs to boost exports to improve its economy for which the government should focus on export-oriented industries.

Zafar Bakhtawari, former President ICCI said that the business community is making key contributions towards the economy and the government should brand some roads to the names of prominent businessmen to recognize their valuable contribution.

Muhammad Shabbir, Raja Imtiaz, Ameer Hamza, Faseeh Ullah Khan, Ch. Muhammad Naeem, Khalid Chaudhry, Saif ur Rehman Khan and others were in the delegation.

Careem celebrates 10 years of simplifying lives

Bureau Report

LAHORE: Careem recently celebrated its 10-year anniversary with their documentary titled 'A Decade in Motion', capturing the journey behind the region's first tech unicorn. Ten years on, Careem has simplified and improved the lives of over 50 million people, created over 2.5 million earning opportunities, with more than \$4 billion paid out to Captains. Along the way, Careem helped spur the growth of the tech startup ecosystem that now forms an essential pillar of the region's growth.

Recently, Careem also announced completion of its 1 billion rides across the region. The report indicated that the impact Careem has made in Pakistan has been phenomenal as it was the market with the highest numbers of rides with 299 million completed

trips. Similarly, Careem has more than 12 million customers and 820,000 Captains registered on the platform who have earned more than \$500 million.

During the documentary screening to the media, Mr. Imran Saleem, General Manager Ride Hailing at Careem Pakistan commented, "It is an extremely proud moment for us as we celebrate a decade of our highs and lows. Our journey has been one of constant learning and growth, and we are grateful to the millions of customers and Captains who have put their trust in us. Our mission has always been to simplify and improve the lives of people in the region, and we will continue to do so in the years to come. As we look ahead, we remain committed to making a positive impact on the communities we serve and leapfrog Pakistan into the digital future."

IMF proposal to tax the rich is laudable

Pakistan should take all required steps before IMF deadline

The Pakistan Economy Watch (PEW) on Tuesday lauded the proposal of the IMF to tax rich and subsidize the poor but it is insufficient as the ruling elite will never impose taxes on nobility.



The IMF should force its proposal into reality to save Pakistan as the government lacks the courage to annoy the super-rich, it said.

Out of 220 million population only 3.5 million file tax returns while only 30 thousand shopkeepers pay taxes out of 2.2 million which should not be allowed, said, said Brig. (ret'd) Aslam Khan, Chairman PEW.

In a statement issued here today, he said that Pakistani elites live like kings without discharging the national obligation by paying taxes, and the people are always made to pay to solve their problems.

This process has drained the country and now should be stopped otherwise the country will not remain functional.

Aslam Khan said that Pakistan is taking loans from International Financial Institutions to avoid bankruptcy and ensure the repayment of its loans.

The criticism of IMF is misplaced as every borrower has to ensure the return of its capital, he added.

He said that all the conditions of the IMF must be fulfilled within the deadline because without it more loans will not be available to Pakistan through other means.

The IMF wants to increase taxes and duties which will make life miserable for the people because the ruling class will never tax the elite.

He said that the country's economy can be managed without putting a heavy financial burden on the poor people and repay the debts if the rich classes are taxed properly but it is not possible any time soon because it needs courage.

Pakistan is not a poor country but the greedy aristocracy is slowly destroying it, he said, adding that Pakistan has to return 27 billion dollars in the next financial year, which is not an easy task.

Karachi Kings bowling still reliable despite Amir's absence: Imran Tahir

Sports Reporter

MULTAN: Former South African leg break googly bowler Imran Tahir said left-arm fast bowler Muhammad Amir was an excellent speedster but added that Karachi Kings bowling was still reliable to do good when they meet Multan Sultans in Amir's absence in 8th edition of Pakistan Super League match on Wednesday.

Talking to media, after a practice session in the nets at Multan Cricket Stadium, today, Imran said, "Pakistan is a fast bowling paradise, producing many fast bowlers over the last few decades and Amir is counted among the best of



them." "Fast bowlers do encounter fitness problems, however, Karachi Kings have complete faith in its bowling talent."

ability despite Amir's absence, "added the Pakistan-born veteran South Africa's spinner.

He said the Multan's pitch was turning out to be bouncy for fast bowlers and predicted Kings-Sultan contest would be a high-scoring match.

To a question, he said, every team had its own strengths and weaknesses and all depends on how the players performed in the ground.

He credited PSL for being a big league producing young cricket talent, adding it was a delight to see PSL doing well in providing opportunities to young Pakistani cricket talent.

POA and Defense Sports Board, Fun Run organized



Tahir Amin Malik

Pakistan Olympic Association With the support of Defense Sports Board, Fun Run was organized with the aim of creating awareness among Pakistani athletes and people regarding the Asian Games to be held in China this year. Ex-Olympians and athletes cheered on the students in the Fun Run, while Khattak dance was the highlight of the cultural program at the event. According to the details, POA officials, OCA delegation members, former Olympians, thousands of students and athletes participated in the Asian Games fun run organized by POA in Defense Lahore. A special video message of POA President Syed Arif Hasan, Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan and Organizing Secretary of Asian Games was aired at the Fun Run event. A cultural program was presented in the event, in which khattak dance and other artists captivated the audience by showing wonderful performances. Swimmer Bismeh Khan, Hockey Olympian Shakeel Abbasi, Muhammad Saqlain and other athletes who participated in the Fun Run said that the Fun Run The aim is to promote sports culture in Pakistan. There should be more such functions as it makes the soft image of Pakistan to the whole world. The athletes said that they will train better and try to win medals for Pakistan in the Asian Games.

Wissam Turkmani, Director of Project and Administration Affairs of the Olympic Council of Asia, described this fun run as the best event. He said that this fun run was very wonderful in terms of discipline and arrangements. It is certain that after this fun run, Pakistani athletes will speed up their preparations and try to win medals for the country. There is still some time left in the Asian Games. This is a golden opportunity for them to prepare. Pakistani athletes are very talented and capable of going far. Wissam Turkmani also thanked Pakistan for its great hospitality. According to DHA administrator Brigadier Waheed Gul Sati, DHA has hosted seven national championships before the Fun Run. The Asian Games Fun Run has taken everyone by storm. DHA is always at the forefront of supporting sports and athletes.

The extracurricular activities along with study play a very essential role in student's life: Iftikhar Syed

Sports Desk

KARACHI: Alpha Education Network has organized The Next School-Inter campus sports tournament in The Sindh Scouts Sports Hall. By the grace of Almighty Allah, more than 500 students of the Gulshan, North Nazimabad and PECHS campus participated in games.

The splendid and colourful event of The Next School-Inter campus sports tournament has been inaugurated by Former Olympian Iftikhar Syed. Along with his grace, the secretary general of Olympic association-Ahmed Ali Rajput, Director Hamza Zakaria, Miss Ayesha Baseer, Miss Ayesha Yousof, Umar Ikram, Principal Ms. Mahpara Faran, Ms. Aneela Samad, Ms. Amna Asif, Sports Co-ordinator Kashif Ahmed Farooqui, Sports Teacher Muhammad Tariq Hafeez, Kaleem Haider, Urooj Naz and The staff and parents were a part of this event. This glorious event was started with Recitation of Holy verses of the Quran, followed with National Anthem, symphonic March Past, Physical training display, Gymnastics, Aerobics and Taikwondo performance won everyone's hearts. The students took part with their heart and soul giving a neck to neck competition. At the end, The participants were rewarded with wonderful trophies, certificates, medals and souvenirs. The Next School team of Directors, sports teachers and coaches were appreciated and congratulated on great success of 1st Annual Sports day.

ICC Women's T20 World Cup: Captain Bismah unfit for game against England

Pakistan Women's Cricket Team's captain Bismah Maroof has been ruled out of today's game against England in ICC Women's T20 World Cup after she suffered a niggle in the groin during the previous game against West Indies. Following the injury, she will not be available for today's match, and vice-captain Nida Dar will lead the side against England in the Newlands.

Bismah had scored 33-ball 26 against the West Indies on Sunday. Moreover, the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB)'s medical panel has advised four to six weeks of rest to Ayesha Naseem as well, who pulled her hamstring in the match against Ireland on 15 February.

The 9th J. A. Zaman Open Golf Championship

Sports Desk

LAHORE: The 9th J. A. Zaman Open Golf Championship has segments for the super golf professionals who will be vying for prize money in the range of rupees six million, another segment for senior golf professionals (over 50 years age), junior professionals (under 21 years age), amateurs (Handicap ten and below) senior amateurs (above 55 years) and ladies amateurs. Also there are veterans (above 70 years age) and juniors. Championship will be contested over six days with first day on Tuesday reserved for 18 holes stroke play contest for ladies and senior amateurs. Senior amateurs will compete over two rounds and in golfing terms over 36 holes.

At the conclusion of the 18 holes for ladies on Tuesday, it was Rimsha Ijaz of Defence Raya who transcended her rivals by managing an impressive score of gross 76 and thereby laying claim to the first gross



prize. She plays to a handicap of one which is an achievement for a Pakistani golf playing lady amateur and with her steadfast play succeeded in bringing off victory for herself and as she completed her 18 holes Hamid Zaman, Head of the Zaman Family who sponsor this championship was there to applaud her and compliment her remarkable performance.

The runner up in ladies gross was Hamna Amjad, another astounding lady golfer with a zero handicap. Her score for 18 holes was gross 78. Third gross position went to the little one from Lahore Garrison, Bushra Fatima. Bushra plays to a six handicap, and her playing capabilities are extraordinary. Maybe in a years time she will be

amongst the best lady player in the country. Her gross score in this contest was 81.

In the race for honors in net category, the high achiever was Shahzadi Gulfam of Lahore Garrison. Her first net prize was attributable to a net score of 69. Second net was won by Tehmina Ahmed of Lahore Gymkhana, score being net 73. Ana James of Royal Palm

won the third net position with a score of net 74.

As for senior amateur event, the competitors have to compete over two days or 36 holes. They played 18 holes on Tuesday and after 18 holes the leader is Sardar Murad of Defence Raya and he is placed at a gross score of 78.

One stroke behind him is Najam Hafeez of Lahore Gymkhana and looks determined to play formidably in the 18 holes contest on Wednesday. Also placed at a score of gross 79 are two daunting golfers Zafar Nasrullah and Dr Arshed Mehmood. The competitive race for honors is certainly intimidating. A few others in the race are Tariq Mehmood and Col Raja Asif Mehdi.

On Wednesday the senior golf professionals will also enter the race for show of golf playing skills while the champion professionals will appear from Thursday and will competed over four rounds, 18 holes each round.

Golf Championship

LAHORE: A woman player hits during J. A. Zaman Memorial Open Golf Championship at Lahore Gymkhana, in Provincial Capital.



Photo: Online

Secretary Energy Sindh Agha Wasif Abbas welcomed the project's appreciation and thinking

Sports Desk

KARACHI: The two-day Pakistan Investor Roadshow in Karachi with the support of the British Government and the Alternative Development Resources Company has concluded in Karachi. Reiterated commitment to promote energy and climate change projects—During the second day of the roadshow, low-carbon developers showcased their projects, ideas, skills and technologies to investors and financiers, all seven projects environmental solutions, Focuses were on energy, transportation, AFOLU (agriculture, forestry and other land use), waste, e-mobility, and manufacturing. Speaking at the closing ceremony of the road show, Sindh Energy Secretary Agha Wasif Abbas praised the CFA low carbon projects and welcomed their innovative thinking that will help Pakistan fight the climate emergency.

Rimsha Ijaz wins 2nd Ghazala Ansari Ladies Challenge Cup

Sports Desk

LAHORE: The 2nd Ghazala Ansari Challenge Cup Ladies Amateur Golf Championship, a world amateur golf ranking event, culminated with a graceful prize distribution ceremony held at the historic Lahore Gymkhana Golf Club.

The most striking feature of this unique event was the ambience of Ghazala Ansari's presence that prevailed throughout the Lahore Gymkhana Golf Club on all three days. Equally evident was the unbounded euphoria and air of festivity that became the hallmark of this event.

Begum Parveen Sarwar, wife of the former Governor Punjab, consented to be the chief guest to demonstrate her continued personal support for Dr Asma Shami's unique initiative of honouring the achievements of Lady Golfing icons of yesteryears. It may be recalled that, last year, Begum Sarwar had insisted on holding the Prize Distribution Ceremony of the 1st Ghazala Ansari Cup in the Durbar Hall of the Governor's House Lahore that enhanced the status of the

championship and raised the prestige of ladies golf to an unimagineable level.

In her address, the chief guest praised this concept in general and legendary Ghazala Ansari's feats in particular. She lavished well deserved praise on Dr Asma Shami, the Chief Organizer, for conceiving this concept and conducting this championship in a professional manner, with her dedicated team, Bela Azam as Tournament Director, Munazza Shaheen as Chief Referee and Mrs Mamoonah Azam as Coordinator.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr Shami stated: "Largely due to the pro women policies of Gen Hilal Hussain, Ex-President of PGF and the dedicated efforts of the lady members of PGF executive committee, Humera Khalid, Zeenat Ayesha and Amber Javed, ladies golf in Pakistan is now well established. In particular, the prestigious international ladies golf event was held in 2019, 2020 and 2022. This event placed Pakistan ladies golf on the international golfing circuit, thus projecting the much-needed soft image of Pakistan in the world."

She added: "I am sure, rather positive with a new efficient management in place, with Gen Muhammad Ikram Qazi (R) as President PFG and newly selected lady members, equally dedicated, will take ladies golf to further heights and ensure there will be no regression."

After the three days of tough competition, Rimsha Ijaz, handicap 1, with a gross score of 239 over 54 holes, emerged as winner of the gross section in Category A (handicaps 0-12). Defending champion Parkha Ijaz, handicap 0, was runner-up with a gross 241, while Suneyah Osama finished 3rd, Ghazala Yasmin fourth, Daniyah Syed fifth and Abiha Syed sixth.

In Category B (handicaps 13-24), Shahzadi Gulfam won the 1st prize, Tehmina Rashid second and Hadiyah Osama third. The first net position was secured by Momina Tarar, second by Shabana Waheed and third by Hareem Tahir.

Moreover, in Category C (handicaps 25-36), the gross winner was Aleesa Rashid, a 11-year-old, who led in both net and gross categories. The second

gross went to Mina Zainab and third to Tasleem Hussain. In the net competition, Saqiba Batool was winner, Humera Zeeshan second and Aliha Amjad third. In the Seniors Match, seven respected seniors participated and the gross prize was won by Amber Javed while net prize was earned by Filza Yousuf.

In the junior girls 18 holes category, Mahnoor Syed was winner followed by Nataliya Nadeem (2nd), Nabeeha Nafees (3rd) and Areej Atif (4th). For nine holes category, the magicians of the game were Maria Waqar (1st), Fariah Amin (2nd), Noor Bano Chaudary (3rd) and Anabia Waqar (4th).

The high point of the prize distribution ceremony was a video clip about Ghazala Ansari's achievements and a personal message from Begum Samina Alvi, the First Lady, who expressed great admiration for the fact that this had been a totally 'women's show', right from its conception to its organisation, planning and execution, refereeing and even sponsoring it.

She said: "Their performance has certainly brought a breath of



fresh air into our sporting environment and proved that Pakistani women are second to none." Begum Alvi, who is in the forefront of breast cancer awareness program, particularly appreciated the fact that Ghazala Ansari was one of the high-profile cancer survivors of our country. She ended up by saying, "If

Ghazala Ansari can beat cancer, so can you!"

It is worth mentioning that Mrs Bela Azam was also the sole financial sponsor of this prestigious event. All funding was provided by her family's firm, the Leathertex Group and its brand name Jhulke. It merits special mention that, besides producing

very high-quality leather products, most of which are exported, this Firm also displays a creditable level of social responsibility. In fact, it was amongst the biggest contributors to the welfare of the temporarily unemployed caddies of Gymkhana Golf Club during the initial stages of the Corona Pandemic.