



'Group of Five' responsible for country's woes

Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) Senior Vice President Maryam Nawaz blamed a "group of five" for the country's current woes, firing a fresh salvo at Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan. Addressing a workers' convention in Sargodha, the PML-N chief organiser said Imran Khan kept saying his government was toppled through a conspiracy (Report on Page 8)



Imran Khan says 'PTI leaders being treated as terrorists in jails'

Former premier and PTI chief Imran Khan said that the PTI leaders and workers are being treated as terrorists in the jails who surrendered before the authorities during Jail Bharo Tehreek. Imran Khan addressed the workers and supporters on the second day of the Jail Bharo Tehreek in which a large number of leaders and activists surrendered before the authorities to protest against the incumbent government. (Report on Page 8)

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Pak Army USAR team returns

ISTANBUL: AFAD Coordinator Istanbul Mrs Seval Dedeoglu presenting shield to Pak Army USAR team during departure from Istanbul Airport to Pakistan.



Photo: PID

President lauds special initiatives under Ehsaas programme for women, children



Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi Thursday lauded special initiatives under the Ehsaas programme focused on providing education and stipends to children and loans to women as a step towards their social and economic empowerment. Speaking at an event arranged for the screening of documentary Ehsaas 2047, he said that Ehsaas programme was a good example of a welfare initiative in which poor people were provided relief and technology was used for disbursing money transparently. He said Ehsaas had various programs and all of these were in the spirit of Islamic welfare state and its objective was to alleviate poverty. Such programmes should

continue, he added. He said an important aspect of such programmes was to stop pilferage of funds. He underlined the need for ensuring the inheritance rights of women in order to empower them financially. He expressed the hope that Pakistan would emerge out of the current economic pressures. President lauds special initiatives under Ehsaas programme for women, children

President Dr Arif Alvi, in a group photo, with the team of 'Ehsaas 2047 Documentary', at Aiwan-e-Sadr, on 23-02-2023

The President said Pakistan still lagged behind in enrollment of children in primary schools which stood at 68 percent while India, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka had more than 90 percent of enrollment of students at primary level.

Country's development linked to success of youth loan program: PM

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Thursday said that country's progress was linked to the success of the Youth Loan Program which besides supporting the unemployed youngsters also benefited the national economy.

The prime minister, addressing a ceremony for cheque distribution among the beneficiaries of the Prime Minister Youth Loan Program, said if provided ample opportunities, Pakistan's youths would take the country to new heights.

He said the loan scheme was the continuation of the PM Youth Loan scheme launched in 2013 by that time prime minister Nawaz Sharif and billions of rupees were disbursed among the entitled youth.

The prime minister recalled that CM Youth Loan Scheme was also launched in Punjab and 75,000 youths were also given



vehicles on loan.

He said the recovery ratio of the youth loan scheme was around 99 percent which manifested the honesty of the country's youngsters.

Prime Minister Shehbaz said that the 99% recovery ratio of the youth and Kissan loan schemes falsified the misconception about the risks involved in the individual loans by the banks. He said Pakistani youths

never got their loans waived off – a problem that inflicted huge losses to the national economy.

The prime minister congratulated the beneficiaries of the loan scheme and appreciated the services of SAMP Shiza Fatima Khawaja, banks and other partners for their efforts to make this program a success.

He said considering their immense potential, the government would never disappoint the

youth and would scrape the maximum resources to extend them loan facilities.

The prime minister also announced that the federal government would distribute 100,000 laptops among top achiever youths across the country, purely on merit.

He said those who used to criticize the laptop scheme in the past should have witnessed that the very laptops helped the youth to earn sustenance, particularly during the COVID pandemic.

"I am giving laptop, not Kalashnikov," the prime minister remarked who earlier distributed cheques among the beneficiaries of loan scheme besides launching a Freelancer Card.

Earlier, SAMP on Youth Affairs Shiza Fatima Khawaja apprised the audience of the performance of Youth Loan Program and assured that a target of Rs30 billion loan to the youth would be achieved.

She also thanked the relevant

ministries, banks, microfinance organisations, business and social media partners for their services and contribution to the success of the program.

She said the agriculture and SME sector would be among major beneficiaries of the loan program.

Punjab Bank President Zafar Masood highlighting the features of the freelancer card, said the freelancers could bring in revenue worth billions of rupees if card was issued and account access was made easy.

He recalled that in the past, the recovery ratio Rozgar scheme was 99% while the recovery rate of Kissan scheme was 99.6% which removed the misconceptions about the government loan schemes.

Earlier, a documentary was played marking the testimonials from the beneficiaries of the youth loan scheme which enabled them to earn sustenance for their respective families.

Court sends Khetran on 10-day physical remand in triple murder case

TLTP

QUETTA: A court in Quetta has sent Balochistan's Minister for Construction and Communications Sardar Abdul Rehman Khetran into police custody on a 10-day physical remand.

Earlier, the minister was produced in the court amid tight security. Khetran had been arrested yesterday (Wednesday, February 22, 2023) in connection with the murder of three persons.

The TLTP learnt that according to the police official, he was arrested in the DIG Police Office Quetta when he appeared before DIG in the afternoon. "Khetran is accused of murdering three people of Marri Tribe, a woman and her two sons and that is why he has been taken into custody," police said, as the protesters continued their sit-in in Quetta for the second consecutive day demanding justice.

Pakistan strongly condemns raid by Israeli occupation forces in West Bank: FO Spokesperson

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan on Thursday strongly condemned the recent raid by Israeli occupation forces in the West Bank resulting in the death of at least 11 Palestinians including a teenager, and injuries to dozens.

"Such atrocious acts are a flagrant violation of international law and relevant United Nations resolutions," Foreign Office Spokesperson Mumtaz Zahra Baloch said in a statement issued here.

"Government and the people of Pakistan extend their sincere and heartfelt condolences to the families of the victims and best wishes for full and swift recovery of the injured in this brutal raid," the Spokesperson added.

The spokesperson said Pakistan remained concerned at the ongoing human rights violations in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir.

"Pakistan will continue to raise our voice against such grave human rights violations in Kashmir. We will also continue to extend political, diplomatic and moral support to our Kashmiri brothers and sisters for the just and peaceful settlement

of the Jammu and Kashmir dispute in accordance with the UN Security Council Resolutions."

The spokesperson also strongly condemned the brutal killing of innocent civilians in occupied Palestinian territories and reiterated full support to the Palestinian people and called for a total withdrawal of Israel from the occupied Arab territories including Jerusalem.

"There should be a restitution of the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people to exercise self-determination and sovereignty in an independent and viable state of Palestine on the basis of pre-1967 borders with Al-Quds Al-Sharif, as its capital," she said.

The spokesperson also called for a just resolution to the plight of Palestinian refugees in accordance with the General Assembly Resolution, 1943 of December 11, 1948.

Highlighting the diplomatic engagements during the last week, the spokesperson mentioned Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari's visit to Europe.

Regarding his two-day visit to Hungary, she told the media that besides holding detailed talks with his counterpart Peter Szijarto, the

two countries signed three MoUs on Cooperation between the Foreign Service Academies of the two countries; on sports and sports education; and on enhancing scholarship program for Pakistani students in Hungarian universities.

"With this MoU, the number of annual scholarships for Pakistani students in universities in Hungary will be doubled from 200 to 400," she added.

The foreign minister also undertook a visit to Germany and Lithuania. In Germany, he attended the Munich Security Dialogue-2023 and participated in several sessions and round table discussions including a panel discussion on Afghanistan.

On the sidelines of the Munich Security Dialogue, the foreign minister held bilateral meetings with his counterparts from Finland, Germany, Jordan, Kosovo, Kuwait, Malta, Norway, Saudi Arabia and Ukraine.

He held important consultations with Politburo Member of the CPC Central Committee & Director of Central Foreign Affairs Commission of China, Mr. Wang Yi, and Vice-President of the EU Commission Josep Borell.

PM, Asif Zardari discuss political situation, public welfare matters

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: President of Pakistan People's Party Parliamentarians (PPPP) Asif Ali Zardari on Thursday met Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif here at the Prime Minister's House.

On his arrival at the PM House, the prime minister received Asif Zardari, also the former President of Pakistan, a PM Office press release said.

PM, Asif Zardari discuss political situation, public welfare matters

In the meeting, they discussed the overall political situation and matters of public welfare.

8 terrorists killed by security forces in Kech District operation

News Desk

RAWALPINDI: As many as eight terrorists were killed by the security forces in a follow-up operation launched after foiling an ambush attempt in the Kech District, Balochistan.

According to an Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) news release on Thursday, the terrorist on the evening of February 22 (Wednesday), attempted to ambush a convoy of security forces in the Kech District.

The alert and combat-ready troops foiled the cowardly attempt without any loss of life and then immediately commenced a follow-up operation

to hunt down the fleeing terrorists using ground and aviation assets.

Resultantly, on Thursday morning a suspected hideout of the terrorists was identified in Mazaaband Range where a sanitisation operation was launched. In the ensuing exchange of fire, eight terrorists were killed with a large cache of arms and ammunition, including explosives, recovered.

"The security forces of Pakistan will continue to thwart such attempts by inimical elements, on the behest of hostile intelligence agencies, to disrupt the hard-earned peace in the province," the ISPR said.

PBC seeks changes in SC bench on election date case

TLTP

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Bar Council (PBC) has said that Justice Mazahar Ali Akbar Naqvi should 'voluntarily' recuse from the bench which is hearing suo moto regarding not holding elections in the Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

Chief Justice of Pakistan Umar Ata Bandial on February 22, constituted a nine-member bench headed by him and comprising Justice Ijaz ul Ahsan, Justice Syed Mansoor Ali Shah, Justice Munib Akhtar, Justice Yahya Afridi, Justice Sayyed Mazahar Ali Akbar Naqvi, Justice Jamal Khan Mandokhail, Justice Muhammad Ali Mazhar and Justice Athar Minallah to consider the questions; Who has the constitutional responsibility and authority for appointing the date for the holding of a general election to a Provincial Assembly, upon its dissolution in the various situations envisaged by and under the Consti-

tution? How and when is this constitutional responsibility to be discharged?

The TLTP learnt that PBC vice-Chairman Haroon-ur-Rashid and Council's Chairman Executive Committee Hassan Raza Pasha said in a statement; "We expect that Justice Mazahar Ali Akbar Naqvi should voluntarily recuse from the bench from hearing of this important matter, which the proprietary demands for him."

They asked the chief justice constitute a bench comprise on nine senior judges of the Supreme Court without exclusion of Justice Qazi Faez Isha and Justice Sardar Tariq Masood to make its image as impartial and neutral, so that public and lawyers community may not question upon the bench for hearing of important matter in respect of determination of constitutional responsibility and authority to announce date of election for Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa provincial assemblies. TLTP

PM Youth Loan Scheme

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif distributing cheques among the beneficiaries of Prime Minister Youth Loan Scheme on Thursday.



Photo: Online

Imran Khan says 'PTI leaders being treated as terrorists in jails'

Bureau Report

LAHORE: Former premier and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chief Imran Khan said that the PTI leaders and workers are being treated as terrorists in the jails who surrendered before the authorities during Jail Bharo Tehreek.

Imran Khan addressed the workers and supporters on the second day of the Jail Bharo Tehreek in which a large number of leaders and activists surrendered before the authorities to protest against the incumbent government.

He said that those who presented themselves for arrests during Jail Bharo Tehreek are being kept with terrorists in the jails. The PTI chief said that they are political inmates which should be kept in a separate barrack.

Khan criticised the government for sending the political prisoners of Jail Bharo Tehreek to jails in different cities.

"Are you thinking that we will be



afraid after these steps? Why people would come out of their homes in Peshawar if they are feared of their arrest? You will see people coming out in Rawalpindi tomorrow. If we do not adopt a peaceful way of protest, then the nation will be enraged and it will be disastrous."

Regarding previous arrests and detentions, Imran Khan said that Pervaiz Elahi's secretary is missing so far and no one knows about his whereabouts. A close relative of Moonis Elahi was abducted and brutally tortured.

He said that Pervaiz Elahi has been given the position of president in his honour after his inclusion in the PTI.

SC issues notices to AGP

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The Supreme Court on Thursday issued notices to the Attorney General for Pakistan (AGP) and major political parties in the suo moto case related to the delay in holding polls of the provincial assemblies of Punjab and Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa.

A nine-member larger bench headed by Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Umar Ata Bandial and comprising Justice Ijaz ul Ahsan, Justice Munib Akhtar, Justice Sayyed Mazhar Ali Akbar Naqvi, Justice Muhammad Ali Mazhar, Justice Yahya Khan Afridi, Justice Syed Mansoor Ali Shah, Justice Athar Minalah and Justice Jamal Khan Mandokhail heard the case.

During the course of the proceedings, CJP Bandial said the court had to look into three things, but the time for provincial assemblies' elections was running out.



Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf counsel Barrister Ali Zafar said the PTI had requested the president to announce the date for the election of provincial assemblies and wanted to bring things in that regard on record.

The CJP remarked that the court had all the records before it. The Constitution made it mandatory to hold elections within 90 days, and the court also had to look into the matter of announcing the election schedule by the president.

He said the court took the issue

of delay in the elections. There had also been petitions related to the delay in the elections before the Supreme Court, he added.

The CJP said the provincial assemblies had been dissolved but their election schedule was not issued yet. Section 57 of the Representation of the People Act required interpretation, he added.

CJP Bandial said the February 10 decision of the Lahore High Court was also before the court, but neither time nor the schedule of the election had been released.

Barrister Ali Zafar said the Election Commission of Pakistan refused to follow the LHC's decision.

Upon this, the chief justice observed that it was a constitutional matter. The court had nothing to do with anyone's point of view, and it would not tolerate the violation of the Constitution.

Addressing the AGP, the chief justice said the court had to look at the Constitution. He said the application of the Islamabad High Court Bar Association was also before the court, while the speakers

of two provincial assemblies had also filed requests regarding the delay in the elections.

He said the court had to take the suo moto notice as it was a matter of public importance. It was issuing notices today.

The AGP said notices should also be issued to the Pakistan Bar Council and two political parties.

Barrister Ali Zafar said the political parties were not directly linked to the delay of elections. As it was a constitutional and straightforward matter so there was no need for notices and the court should decide the case by itself.

Justice Munib said the matter was also related to political parties and there was no problem in listening to them. As elections were fought by political parties, so they were partners in the matter.

The chief justice said the court would hear the case on daily basis and adjourned the hearing till Friday morning.

Turkish people express 'heartwarming gratitude' to Rescue team on departure: Marriyum

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Information and Broadcasting Marriyum Aurangzeb on Thursday said the people of Turkey expressed their "heartwarming gratitude" for the Rescue 1122 team on their departure from Istanbul Airport for Pakistan.

"Heartwarming expression of gratitude for Pakistan's Rescue 1122 Team at Istanbul Airport, departing

for Pakistan," she tweeted.

The minister also shared a video showing scenes from the Istanbul Airport where people paid tribute to the Rescue 1122 team for their rescue and relief efforts in Turkey after the earthquake.

"Very proud of them for the great work they did in rescue and relief efforts in earthquake-hit areas. They saved lives. They are our heroes," Marriyum added.

LHC seeks details of pre-2002 gifts from Toshakhana

TLTP

LAHORE: The Lahore High Court (LHC) has summoned details received by different personalities before 2002 from Toshakhana.

As per details, the Lahore high court heard the plea regarding the detail of gifts received by personalities from Toshakhana. The court asked that it should be disclosed who received gifts from Toshakhana. The government's counsel told the cabinet has decided to de-classify the record prior to 2002.

The TLTP learnt that LHC inquired that is there any holy cow who received gifts from Toshakhana before 2002. The government will release the detailed record on the

website, the counsel told the court. The record of all the gifts received by different personalities before 2002 needs to be released. The court will also check how the relations with other countries are affected by the disclosure of Toshakhana details, LHC told the government counsel.

The court further directed the government to de-classify the details of the gift received from Toshakhana. Earlier, PM Shehbaz Sharif-led federal government decided to make details of gifts, received over the past two decades, public. The decision to share details of Toshakhana gifts on the Cabinet Division's website was taken in the federal cabinet meeting chaired by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif here.

'Group of Five' responsible for country's woes: Maryam Nawaz

Correspondent

SARGODHA: Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) Senior Vice President Maryam Nawaz blamed a "group of five" for the country's current woes, firing a fresh salvo at Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan.

Addressing a workers' convention in Sargodha, the PML-N chief organiser said Imran Khan kept saying his government was toppled through a conspiracy, but the real conspiracy was hatched against party supremo and former premier Nawaz Sharif.

Maryam Nawaz alleged that the 'group of five' includes sitting and former Supreme Court judges and the former Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) chief, General (ret'd) Faiz Hameed.

She, while addressing the convention, asked Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif not to worry about the remnants of Faiz Hameed and held them accountable. She also termed Lahore CCPO Ghulam Muhammad Dogar an asso-



ciate of Imran Khan.

The PML-N leader further said that the "cabal of five" created political instability, which triggered economic crisis leading to sky rocketing inflation in the country.

She further lambasted the former premier for appointing "Punjab's biggest

dacoit" Chaudhry Pervaiz Elahi as his party's central president.

Referring to PTI's Jail Bharo Tehreek, Maryam said the party chairman was asking his workers to court arrests while "he himself is hiding in a mouse hole." "Leaders led from the front like Nawaz Sharif. Jails for workers and bails for

himself," she remarked.

The PML-N senior vice president claimed that policemen kept asking the party workers to turn themselves in, but they instead fled from the spot. "Now, they are moving court for the release of their leader," she added.

She also asked party supporters to promote the PML-N supremo's message, and told them to prepare for elections, which not only have to be contested, but won also.

Earlier in February, Maryam Nawaz criticised the judiciary, claiming that it was 'facilitating some quarters' of the country.

Talking to journalists, the PML-N chief organiser said that questions were being raised on judiciary's role as it was 'facilitating some quarters' of the country.

She pointed out that Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan was the only prime minister in country's history who was ousted through no confidence motion.

63rd Birthday Anniversary of His Majesty the Emperor Naruhito celebrated

Naveed Ahmad Khan

ISLAMABAD: To celebrate the 63rd Birthday of His Majesty the Emperor Naruhito, the Ambassador of Japan H.E. Mr. WADA Mitsuhiko hosted a reception at a local hotel in Islamabad on February 23rd. H.E. Mian Riaz Hussain Pirzada, Minister for Human Rights, was the chief guest on the occasion. The reception was attended by the Ministers, Parliamentarians, senior government officials, members of the diplomatic community and other dignitaries from the public and private sector.

Ambassador WADA together with the distinguished guests cut a cake to mark the His Majesty the Emperor's Birthday, which is on February 23rd. Since his accession to the throne



on 1st May 2019 as the 126th Emperor of Japan, His Majesty the Emperor

or Naruhito stands as the symbol of Japan and the unity of the people.

His Majesty and the Imperial Family also facilitate the good relations with foreign countries including Pakistan.

While welcoming the guests on the occasion, Ambassador WADA stressed Japanese businesses' high expectation in new business opportunities in Pakistan, referring to recent investments by Japanese companies.

The Ambassador also emphasized that among the approximately USD 77 million that was announced at Geneva Conference, around half of its humanitarian and rehabilitation assistance has already been disbursed.

He expressed his gratitude to the people of Pakistan for showing their trust and affinity toward Japan, and stated the commitment to continue his efforts to further strengthen bilateral relations..

Chairman NAB appears before PAC, asked for swift conclusion of cases

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: The Public Accounts Committee (PAC) on Thursday directed the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) authorities to conduct swift investigations against plunderers of national exchequer to bring their corruption cases into logical conclusion without more delay.

The meeting was chaired by PAC chairman, MNA Noor Alam Khan, who directed the authorities concerned that there should not be a soft corner for the looters who were involved in massive corruption charges irrespective of their political and any other affiliation.

The Chairman PAC said NAB was authorized to check his assets and accounts and i will have no objection to it as my hands are clean, and I have already appeared before NAB in the past," Noor Alam said.

He also directed that strict disciplinary action should be launched against those creating obstacles in accountability process as it could not be stopped on anyone's wish.

Noor Alam Khan said the country was confronting multiple challenges and everybody should contribute their services for its welfare and progress. The PAC members were working in best national interest to highlight corruption scandals and

genuine issues of the common man, he added.

He said that NAB had not suspended its officials who had delayed the corruption case of Tayyaba Gul.

Acting Chairman NAB Syed Zahir Shah said that he and other officials were always ready to appear before the PAC when it summons. "It is foremost priority of the NAB to complete its investigation process within six months," he maintained.

He termed the Public Accounts Committee as supreme committee and working efficiently in the utmost interest of the country. The Acting NAB Chair said the NAB authorities would be ready to report the PAC regarding corruption cases and irregularities occurring in any institution.

Shah said almost 72 illegal recruitment or appointments had been made in Khyber Bank.

Noor Alam Khan directed the NAB to probe the corruption or fraud in Health Card across the country instead of only one province.

The PAC meeting was attended by MNAs Nawab Sher, Wajih Qamar, Chaudhry Barjees Tahir, Ramesh Kumar Vankwani, Sardar Riaz Mehmoood Khan Mazari, Nuzhat Pathan (via-video link) Senators Saleem Mandviwalla and Mushahid Hussain Sayed.

The 33rd meeting of Parliamentary Committee on Kashmir held

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: The 33rd meeting (in-camera) of the Parliamentary Committee on Kashmir was held today, at Parliament House, Islamabad under the Chairmanship of Makhdoomzada Syed Basit Ahmed Sultan, MNA.

The Chairman welcomed the Members, special invitees and Senior Officers in the meeting. The Committee offered Fateha for the departed souls of civilians including Sher Alam Mahsud, Ex-Secretary, Ministry of Kashmir Affairs & GB and Shuhada of Pakistan Armed Forces, Police other law enforcement agencies and Kash-



miri freedom fighters including those leaders who died in the illegal, unlawful custody of Indian forces, in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu & Kashmir (IIOJK), victims of the earthquake in

Turkiye & Syria. The meeting was attended by the Hon. Members Sardar Riaz Mahmood Khan Mazari, Mr. Muhammad Sajjad, Malik Sohail Khan, Mr. Muhammad

Jamal Ud Din, MNAs and Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed, Mr. Qamar Zaman Kaira, Adviser to the Prime Minister on Kashmir Affairs & Gilgit-Baltistan, Sardar Tanveer Ilyas Khan, Prime Minister of State Azad Jammu & Kashmir, Ch. Akbar Ibrahim, Minister of Government of State of AJ&K, Mr. Abdul Majid Khan, Minister of Government of AJ&K and Senior Officers from Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Kashmir Affairs & GB, Defence, Interior, Information & Broadcasting, Human Rights, National Security Division, PEMRA and Government of State of Azad Jammu & Kashmir.

Protest

LAHORE: Balouch students hold a protest in favor of their demands outside press club, in Provincial Capital.



Photo: Online

Noted businessman Saifuddin Sheikh joins PTS

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: A leading businessman Saif Uddin Sheikh has joined Pakistan Tehreek-e-Shadbad (PTS) as President of Sindh province.

The Chairman of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Shadbad Dr. Hanif Mughal has issued a notification in this regard.

At the occasion, Dr. Hanif Mughal said that PTS is a new political party focusing on health, education, justice and employment.

He said that Saif Uddin Sheikh has an impressive profile and he wants to serve the masses therefore he has been given the responsibility.

He added that we hope Saif Uddin Sheikh will try his best to give a boost to our initiatives through his skills and efforts.

At the occasion, Saif Uddin Sheikh said that he wants to serve the masses selflessly as we have a moral obligation towards this noble purpose.

He said that we should try to help people get health, education and justice and discharge our responsibilities with utmost sincerity.

Politicians are responsible for fulfilling the needs and aspirations of their constituents through impactful policy.

They should effectively engage with their constituents and prioritise the issues most impacting their communities, he added.

He said that gas and power tariffs have been revised upward as per the agreement with the IMF to prevent further accumulation of circular debt and ensure the viability of the energy sector.

However, structural reforms remain pending in the energy sector, taxation and other sectors.

Sheikh is a fellow of the Chartered Institute of Management Accountants (FCMA), he is a Chartered Global Management Accountant from the US, CEO of Ajwa Super Marts and Appolo Electric and Executive Director of Pakistan Economy Watch.

UN and OIC to take notice of the serious situation in IOJK

Abdul Majeed Tahir

MUZAFFARABAD: President of All Jammu & Kashmir Muslim Conference and former Prime Minister of Azad Kashmir Sardar Atiq Ahmad Khan said that on February 23, 1991, the incident of mass rape of Kashmiri women in Kannan Poshpura is a heartbreaking incident in the history of humanity. Today, on the occasion of International Women's Day, there is a big question for the entire international community and human rights organizations, as much as this tragedy is condemned. could not give justice and the Indian judiciary is helping the government of India in crushing the freedom movement of Kashmir by prolonging this case. The former prime minister said that today the Kashmiri people have once again convinced the Indian leaders through the protests that India can never crush the freedom spirit of the people of Kashmir through coercion and they will soon face the goal of independence.



On this occasion, he demanded the United Nations and the OIC to take notice of the serious situation in Occupied Kashmir and put pressure on India to facilitate the plebiscite.

Fake domiciles issued to 4.2 mln non-residents to change IIOJK's demography: Barrister Sultan



Bureau Report

MUZAFFARABAD: Azad Jammu & Kashmir (AJK) President Barrister Sultan Mehmood Chaudhary on Thursday said the Indian government had issued fake domiciles to some 4.2 million non-residents to change the demography of the Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu & Kashmir (IIOJK).

Since scrapping the special status of IIOJK in its constitution on August 5, 2019, India had been taking such measures under its nefarious designs, besides resorting to the worst human rights abuses in the state, he told a news conference after returning from a three-week visit of the United States, Europe and Turkey.

Barrister Sultan said the international media like The Guardian, New York Times and BBC had already reported the facts about demographic changing measures and the worst human rights violations carried out by the occupation authorities in the valley.

His visit to the influential world capitals was aimed at further highlighting India's nefarious acts vis-a-vis the IIOJK and stressing the international fora, including the United Nations and the European Union, to get stop the reign of terror being unleashed by the Indian occupation forces on the hapless people, he added.

He said being the president of the AJK, the base camp government of the Kashmir freedom movement, he was fulfilling his responsibility to highlight the Kashmir cause internationally. He was bearing the expenses of the foreign tours he had been undertaking since he took the office, he added.

Barrister Sultan termed his tour successful as he had held high-profile meetings with UN Assistant Secretary-General for the Middle East, Asia and the Pacific Khalid Khiali and Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights Ilze Brands Kehris, US senators and Congress members, British, European Union and Turkish parliamentarians, and officials of other international forums. He said it was much encouraging when Khalid Khiali told him that the Kashmir issue was very much on the United Nations' agenda and the secretary General was making his efforts to resolve the longstanding dispute.

A high-level meeting of business community held

Mian Rashid Asghar

FAISALABAD: Caretaker Provincial Minister for Industry and Commerce SM Tanveer along with Commissioner Madam Silwat Saeed presided over a high-level meeting of business community in the Commissioner's office. Mian Idress Ahmad, Shahid Razaq Sikka, Aslam Bhali, Amin Butt, Waheed Khaliq Ramay and representatives of various business organizations also participated.

The caretaker provincial minister said that serious steps are being taken to solve the problems faced by the industries. He said while listening to the problems of the industrialists at the local level will be solved on priority basis. He listened



about some issues related to the police, parking and traffic issues and announced the formation of TORs committees to solve the problems of the traders. He appointed Focal Person to Additional Deputy Commissioner Headquarters in consultation with Commissioner

and asked the traders to contact the ADC headquarters for representation and inform about the real problems. He said that a follow-up

meeting will be held after 10 days in which the progress in solving the problems will be reviewed. Caretaker Provincial Minister for Industries and Commerce SM Tanveer along with Commissioner Madam Silwat Saeed also presided over the meeting of the representatives of agriculture department and farmers organizations in the Commissioner's office. The Divisional Commissioner welcomed the Caretaker Provincial Minister

for Industries and Commerce and discussed the problems of farmers after the last meeting. She informed about the progress and said about the availability of fertilizers, sale at fixed rates and the details of the actions taken against the hoarders. She said that the supply of canal water to the farmers and solving their other problems is the first priority. Caretaker Minister said that the caretaker government under the leadership of Punjab Chief Minister Syed Mohsin Raza Naqvi is serious about solving the problems faced by the farmers. He appreciated the clear steps taken by the commissioner to solve the problems of the farmers and said that the supply of canal water to the tillers and theft of canal water should be completely resolved.

DC disappointment on the performance of price control magistrates

Mian Rashid Asghar

FAISALABAD: The Deputy Commissioner Ali Anan Qamar has expressed disappointment on the performance of price control magistrates and said that the performance of each price magistrate will be checked daily from today, in this regard, the concerned magistrate will be held answerable for not prominently displaying the fixed price list of each item on the shop and cart of fruit and vegetable. While presiding over the meeting, the Deputy Commissioner said that he would personally visit markets and bazars across the district to monitor the price checking by the magistrates and take feedback from the consumers, so the price control magistrates would take their responsibility to implement the fixed prices, so the pcm should feel the stripes strongly. He directed to take corrective action against profiteers and send them behind the bar for overcharging so no one could take over price.

Shura Hamdard held

KARACHI: The meeting of Shura Hamdard Karachi convened at the Hamdard Corporate Head Office, yesterday to discuss the "Decline of Ethics in the Politics of Pakistan," presided over by Justice (R) Haziq-ul-Khairi, the Speaker of Shura Hamdard. The meeting was graced by the presence of Jameel Ahmad Khan, a distinguished former diplomat and writer, who was invited to speak on the topic as a guest speaker. Among the distinguished attendees was Ms. Sadia Rashid, the President of the Hamdard Foundation Pakistan.

Commencing with the recitation of the Holy Quran, the meeting was initiated, and Justice (R) Haziq-ul-Khairi, along with the Shura members, conveyed their condolences and profound sadness over the passing of eminent Pakistanis, including the former President General

Pervez Musharraf, the renowned businessman Bairam D'Avari, the illustrious poet and author Amjad Islam Amjad, and the celebrated anchor and artist Ziamuhammad. The members paid homage to these distinguished individuals, extolling their remarkable achievements and contributions to Pakistan, and prayed to Allah for his blessings upon the departed souls.

Guest speaker Jameel Ahmad Khan highlighted the root causes of the deterioration of moral values in society, attributing it to the continuous political instability and the woeful condition of the education sector. He expressed regret that such circumstances have not allowed for the creation of a society where the crucial task of safeguarding ethical principles could be carried out.

Drawing on a specific instance from history, Khan referred to

character assassination campaign waged against Ms. Fatima Jinnah, a stalwart figure, during the reign of Ayub Khan, which marked the decline of political ethics in Pakistan. In contemporary times, dishonesty has pervaded every facet of life, including rights, duties, education and training, transactions, justice, commitment, and duty, among many others. Society at large has relinquished concern for the collective good and has become preoccupied with self-interests.

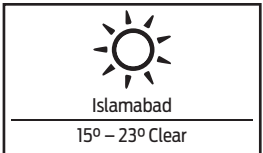
Nevertheless, Khan underscored the urgency of combating this issue and stressed the need for the first concrete steps to reintroduce ethics in politics, coupled with the media's adherence to a code of conduct. He also emphasized that the attitudes and behaviors of politicians are mirrored on the streets and called for their accountability and responsibility.

Professor Dr. Hakim Abdul Hanan emphasized that the awakening of consciousness, enhancement of intellect and comprehension, the elevation of ethical standards, and the acquisition of skills cannot be achieved without education alone. training also is an indispensable component of this process, especially in today's modern age.

Anwar ul Haq Siddiqui asserted the pressing need for the dissemination of truth, trust, and tolerance within society, and advocated for the overhaul of the country's traffic system to inculcate discipline, thereby initiating a moral transformation. Additionally, he urged political parties to persuade the populace that addressing national issues necessitates a collective strategy and comprehensive understanding. It is essential that political parties adhere to an ethical code of conduct, where-



by criticisms of personalities are disallowed, and a clear distinction is drawn between constructive criticism and derision. (r) Mukhtar Ahmed Butt, Prof. Khalida Ghous, Moinuddin Haider, Saeed Siddiqui, Col Ikhlaq Ahmed and others also spoke on the topic.



SERVICES

Namaz Timings
 Fajr 5:21 am
 Zohr 12:21 pm
 Asr 4:19 pm
 Maghrib 5:59 pm
 Isha 7:22 pm

EMERGENCY

Rescue (Police) 15
 Bomb Disposal 15
 Fire Services Rawalpindi/
 Islamabad 1122 & 16
 Emergency Ambulance 1122 &
 & Rescue Services 4451122
 Motorway Police 92766044
 Motorway Police 9276601-20

Women Police Stations

Islamabad 9222596
 Rawalpindi 9276601-20

ENQUIRY

Edhi Ambulance 115
 PIA Flight Info 114
 PIA Cargo 9280979
 Railway Inquiry 117
 Railway Exchange 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

UBL delivers a resilient performance in 2022 with strong shareholder returns

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: UBL delivered yet another solid performance generating a Profit Before Tax (PBT) of Rs. 68.3 billion for the year ended December 31, 2022, with a year on year growth of 31%. Profit after tax (PAT) was reported at Rs. 32.1 billion with Earnings per Share (EPS) at Rs. 26.19 (2021: Rs. 25.23). The Bank declared dividends of Rs. 9.0 per share for the fourth quarter of 2022, taking the overall dividend distribution to Rs. 22.0 per share for the full year which is significantly higher than the Rs. 18.0 per share declared in 2021. Despite economic challenges this year, UBL remained resilient in sustaining its leading position in the Pakistan banking industry.

UBL remains one of the largest financial institutions of Pakistan with a footprint of 1,335 branches in Pakistan and an asset base of over Rs. 2.8 trillion. Serving 11 million customers, with deposits of over Rs. 1.84 trillion and gross advances of Rs. 1.01 trillion as at December 31, 2022, UBL is at the forefront of banking and financial services in Pakistan.

We are proud of our highly dedicated and professional team of around 13,500 staff members and remain steadfast in our commitment of reaching remote areas of the country and providing access to banking facilities, thus serving the goal of financial inclusion for every citizen of Pakistan.

Austerity measures aim to reduce burden on national exchequer: Shazia Marri

City Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Poverty Alleviation and Social Safety Shazia Marri Thursday said the present government was fully cognizant of the sufferings of the common man and decided to reduce the expenses of the cabinet members as a part of its austerity campaign.

The initiated austerity measures were being initiated keeping in view the numerous challenges being faced by the country, including economic hardships, Shazia Marri, who is also Chairperson of the Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP), said while addressing a presser.

Prime Minister, Shehbaz Sharif, she said, had already constituted a committee on austerity measures, which would prepare a comprehensive plan for implementation of the campaign.

She recalled that former prime minister Syed Yousaf Raza Gillani had introduced a monetization policy during his tenure, which could not be implemented. "We have now decided to implement that policy in letter and spirit as a part of the austerity measures." "The cabinet members have been directed to strictly implement the austerity campaign while the prime minister will personally monitor the process," she added.



The austerity campaign, she said, would save Rs 200 billion annually from the national exchequer, which would be spent on the welfare of the people.

Shazia Marri said the present government had taken difficult decisions to ensure economic stability and reduce the burden on public exchequer.

The government was also considering to reduce the size of cabinet as a part of the austerity measures, she added.

Structural reforms, she stressed, were needed to address the crises. The government was working on the reforms, which would be announced soon.

The minister said political stability was a must to ensure economic stability in the country, but Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf was persistently creating chaos.

The ineffective policies of the last PTI regime had pushed the country into the economic quagmire and the incumbent government had to take difficult decisions to overcome the challenges, she added.

Responding to a question, Shazia Marri said the decisions taken in the recent cabinet meeting would be shared with the provincial governments so that they could also contribute to the austerity campaign.

Japani traditional music

ISLAMABAD: Young Japanese artists are performing of Japani traditional music during celebration 63rd Birthday of His Majesty the Emperor of Japan, at a local hotel in Federal Capital.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

LFK & IICR organize round table conference to mark Kunan-Poshpora Day

City Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Legal Forum for Kashmir (LFK) and Islamabad Institute of Conflict Resolutions (IICR) organized a roundtable debate titled Targeting Vulnerable Groups as a Weapon of War: India's Abuse and Impunity in Kashmir. Every year on 23 February Kashmiris throughout the world along with the survivors of Kunan Poshpora mass rape in IIOJK organize acts of resistance, remembering, and contemplating in commemoration of the horrific rape and torture of women in twin villagers in district Kupwara, north of Kashmir. The survivors of these atrocities continue to fight for justice and recognition even in the face

of overwhelming odds. The fact that they are still seeking legal recourse is a testament to the power of the law as a form of archiving memory, as well as to their own resilience and determination. The expert speakers for the roundtable discussion included Ms. Mushal Hussain Malik, chairperson Peace and Culture Organization; Ms. Farzana Yaqoob, Former Minister of Social Welfare and women development AJK; Dr. Salma Malik, Professor at the department of Defense and Strategic Studies Quaid e Azam University Islamabad; Dr. Waleed Rasool, Lecturer, International Relations at Riphah International University and Ms. Urooj Raza Sayyami, Political Assistant to Ex-Chief Minister

Punjab on Human Rights. The roundtable conference was moderated by Ms. Neha Ayub, Research Scholar, Centre for International Peace and Stability, NUST. Ms. Urooj Raza Sayyami expressed her serious concern about the role of media towards Jammu and Kashmir. She stated that India is illegally using weapons and are violating the human rights in Indian occupied Jammu and Kashmir. People are not aware about the situation of Jammu and Kashmir all because of the silence of Media. Ms. Farzana Yaqoob while expressing her views on the topic said that it's the responsibility of the state to raise voice for the oppressed and depressed

people of Jammu and Kashmir. Dr. Waleed Rasool while delivering his speech stated that stupidity is declared as patriotism and nationalism as terrorism. He stated that all the brutalities that are going on in Jammu and Kashmir is legal according to Indian constitution. It's not possible for Kashmiri people to get remedy in occupation where the laws are against them. Ms. Mushal Hussain Malik highlighted the issues of Kashmiri women and expressed that the women in Kashmir are living under constant fear. Despite the threat of being abused or humiliated, they are playing an important role in freedom struggle of Kashmir.

PCBDDA makes mastercard preferred payment partner



News Desk

ISLAMABAD: Punjab Central Business District Development Authority (PCBDDA) also known as Central Business District Punjab (CBD Punjab), and Mastercard has signed a strategic MOU to turn the community into a cashless economic zone and drive digital transformation in the country. The collaboration will see Mastercard deploy its innovative smart city solutions in the Central Business District Punjab, as the Preferred Payments Partner to enable investors, businesses, residents, and authorities to connect simply and seamlessly through digital channels.

Mastercard will support PCBDDA in achieving this vision and establish a cashless framework within the community's blueprint. Speaking at the signing ceremony, Selim Ergoz, Senior Vice President, Government Engagement, Eastern Europe, Middle East and Africa, Mastercard, said: "As Pakistan embraces the power of digital payments, Mastercard is committed to driving digital transformation in the country through strategic public-private partnerships. We are working with the government across various sectors to digitize the nation's economic infrastructure and offer communities a seamless smart city experience.

The collaboration with PCBDDA is a milestone moment in this journey as we look to create a fully cashless community that offers convenience, simplicity, and security." Imran Amin, CEO, PCBDDA, said: "Mastercard has a stellar track record of supporting cashless communities in several economic hubs around the world. We value the expertise that they will bring as we look to power PCBDDA with the flexibility and safety of smart economic solutions. The collaboration is a testament to Pakistan's progress as a growing digital hub in the Middle East and North Africa region."

The event was also attended by Fazeel Asif Jah, Chairman PCBDDA Board, Brig. Mansoor Janjua, COO, PCBDDA; Mohammed Omer, Executive Director Commercial, PCBDDA; Ali Waqar Shah, Director Business Development, PCBDDA; Arslan Khan, Vice President, Country Business Manager, Pakistan, Mastercard; Ali Saqib, Director Business Development, Mastercard. Both parties acknowledged the contribution of Imran Amin, CEO PCBDDA; Habban Subhani, Executive Director Finance, PCBDDA & SM Omer Deputy Director Finance, PCBDDA in arranging this collaboration.

Visit of Golden Ring Economic Forum to ISSI



Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: A delegation from the Golden Ring Economic Forum (GREF), Lahore, led by its Chairman Lt. Gen. Sikander Afzal (R), visited the Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI). Other members of the delegation included Engr. Hasnain Reza Mirza, President; Mr. Meher Kashif Younus, Vice President; and Dr. Shahid Hasan, Director BoG. Ambassador Sohail Mahmood, Director General, led the ISSI side. Other participants included Dr. Neelum Nigar, Director CSP, Ms. Mahrukh Khan, RF, Mr. Muhammad Naem Salik, Research Fellow, and Mr. Muhammad Taimur Fahad Khan, Research Associate.

The GREF delegation highlighted its role as a think-tank focussing on long-term economic and strategic issues that are of importance to Pakistan. The discussions pertained to Pakistan's relations with Turkey, Russia, China, Iran, and Central Asian Republics. The exchange of views focussed on the political, diplomatic, trade, investment, energy, and people-to-people aspects of these relationships.

Ambassador Sohail Mahmood underscored the importance of injecting enhanced economic content into these relationships, stressing that as an imperative. He underlined that while prudently handling the geo-politics, Pakistan's task was to accentuate its pivot to geo-economics. In this context, he added, mobilization of efforts for enhanced trade, investment, economic cooperation, and connectivity was indispensable. The two sides agreed to increase mutual collaboration, with a primary emphasis on geo-economics and regional connectivity.

Auto parts vendors upset for not passing on profit by OEMs



Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Automotive Parts and Manufacturers Association of Pakistan (PAAPAM), in an overwhelming convention held here today, has shown immense concerns for the sustainability of auto parts industry operations. The parts makers looked exasperated for not transferring the price increase by the Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEMs), who had continually been charging high from the end users. They demanded the OEMs a price increase on pro-rata-based formula.

The former finance minister of Pakistan, Dr. Salman Shah, said the government had failed to establish a sustainable model of industrialization. He advised the parts makers to stop looking toward OEMs and the government for support and rather get technologies and develop partnerships to achieve excellence in parts manufacturing and not be captive of any particular sector.

Several other industry and financial experts also addressed the PAAPAM members to seek ways of survival in this grey arena. PAAPAM Senior Vice Chairman Usman Aslam Malik stated that it was imperative to join the grey-heads to brew the collective wisdom to chalk our way forward. He said exporting companies were also facing problems in supplying to international customers due to the non-availability of raw materials.

Usman Aslam Malik also emphasized the government to bring major changes in the auto industry development plan 2022-26, making it mandatory for assemblers to export a certain percentage of vehicles and parts. Mirza Tahir Baig, the MC member of the Association of Overseas Technical Cooperation (AOTS), offered engineers and management professionals capacity-building programs.

Government pays full attention to education, Rana Tanveer Hussain

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Government is paying full attention to education of children in Pakistan and wishes to start pre-one classes in schools to provide a strong educational foundation for children, said Federal Minister for Education and Professional Training (MoFEPT), Rana Tanveer Hussain at the groundbreaking ceremony of Center of Excellence for Early Childhood Development (ECD) at the Allama Iqbal Open University (AIQU) yesterday (Thursday). The Minister said that the establishment of the ECD center is a commendable initiative of Allama Iqbal Open University and congratulated the university administration on this achievement. This center is being established with the



collaboration of Rupani Foundation. Federal Secretary for Education, Aamir Ashraf Khawaja, was chief guest at the closing ceremony, while VC, AIQU Prof. Dr. Nasir Mehmood chaired closing session. Aamir Ashraf

Khawaja said that the country's economy is related to education, health and agriculture and unfortunately in last 75 years, we did not invest in education and health sectors. We need to include these two sectors in the our

priorities. He said that MoFEPT will start the feeding project in schools from next year. Amir Ashraf Khawaja said that Allama Iqbal Open University drew our attention to this important sector (ECD) by organizing the conference and we will take this concept forward.

Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Dr. Nasir Mahmood said that early childhood education is an important sector and unfortunately our country has lagged in this sector among regional countries. Dr. Nasir Mahmood said that we must take some actions to make the mission of early childhood fruitful in our schools. In this regard, we laid the foundation of ECD center in AIQU today. Dr. Nasir Mehmood thanked all the partners and organizers for their cooperation in this conference.

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Uncertainty, Instability, and the Common man

Javed Ullah Raja

Every person in every class is worried about the political instability in the country. Days and nights pass in the vision that the new morning will hear the good news. With the rising of the sun in the morning, the same sounds melt in the ears. The price of petrol has been increased. The proposal to increase the electricity rates is under consideration. The next two or three are important for the increase in the rates of such and such commodities. The dollar has increased. More taxes are to be imposed. This is just the daily routine. Our political parties that have nothing to do except try to humiliate each other. No positive work is seen to be done by our leaders and not by the people. Because when there is political chaos in the country, there is a situation of uncertainty so who wants to do something? See what happens in the morning. Wait what happens tomorrow.

The internal situation of the country is incomprehensible. The leaders are worried about their power. Is it politics that even the highest and highest positions are being challenged and defamed? The common man has been forced to think that the decisions of the higher authorize and institutions are not valuable. So who will listen to the cries of the oppressed people? Who will give them justice? There is a war of chair in our country. This struggle to bring down each other is the politics responsible for bringing the nation into more crises instead of getting rid of the crises. Even today our stakeholders do not understand. Repeating the mistakes of the past and present is playing with the country's survival. Recent burdened with debts and

taxes, even a loaf of bread is being taken away from the common man. When asked from the poor person standing on the side of the road. How do you live in this inflation, what do you eat? Brother, we eat vegetables every day. Which, we grow in our house. We cook it without oil. We use green tea instead of milk tea. Now sometimes dal chana is cooked at home. People give their old clothes to wear. What is the house like and how big is it? There is one room. We are seven family members. Mats are used for sleeping on the ground, this is our life.

Like this there are other problems among the communities that raise eyebrows. By God: This statement is not of an individual, these are the words of our poor community. A large part of the population of our country is living below the poverty line. They have no food to eat, no expenses to educate their children, nor are they able to survive in health diseases. If today's generation is left away from the jewel of education, it is not the loss of this family, but the loss of the entire society. Apart from this, there are many other issues that are the top priority to solve. Who should cry for whom?

Dear readers: This is not the time of Hazrat Umar, the ruler of 22 million square miles, and there is no Zakat collector in the country. His lifestyle was such that he had many patches on his clothes. He does not eat oiled bread. He serves the people by becoming a servant of the subjects. What does it say that even a dog dies by the Euphrates River? Umar will be asked. This is a moment of concern for today's Muslim rulers. People's governments are the spokesmen and benefactors of the people's aspirations. It was only a few days ago. In addition to the natural disaster in Turkey, the population was also met

with heavy human lives. The statement of their leader, Erdogan went viral. He said that anyone who has become homeless or displaced wherever he wants to live should be freed. The government will bear the cost. And the property will also be built.

We are dependent on others even for the needle. We are in need of everything for the last 70 years. We are also in need of the things that are produced by the country. Because to date not enough attention to our own production. It is sad to say that we are feeling proud even by extending our hands in front of others that this is a precursor to our relations that we are getting aid. Electricity shock is given to people every day. What said by the Chief Justice of Pakistan, that the country cannot afford more debts and also pointed out that these debts lead to these disasters. And today people are suffering from borrowing billions of dollars. Borrowing has become a sensitive issue for Pakistan. The entire nation has become indebted. What has been delivered on the country's infrastructure worth billions of dollars already? "

Currently, the country is in a strange situation. The load shedding of electricity and gas is on the rise. There is inflation in essential commodities, flour crisis and rising petrol prices. The truth is that these difficulties have taken away the right to live from the common man. The world looks at this country with great respect. The strength, power, and natural location of Pakistan on the world map are a great blessing from Allah. A country is rich in natural minerals. Why it should be said the verge of default today. It is a matter of thinking whose fault it is. Our people need such ruling leadership who love the country. Give priority to the decisions of the country and the nation's integrity and

survival. Free the country from the trouble of debts forever and ever. To improve the standard of living of the people, concrete steps should be taken to provide basic facilities and reduce the poverty rate. We should take care of the country's 65% of the total population before adding any new tax or inflationary burden. They must be kept in mind that their hearing is nowhere so that every coming day does not see wrinkles on their foreheads. The people's government is the spokesperson for the people's aspirations. To get the IMF loans, the tax burden of 170 billion dollars will be on the people. Till today, we have given this bailout to the people. The people are always the scapegoat. It has to be. The rich class takes some measures to protect themselves. But the poor are killed. It is being repeatedly pointed out by different circles that God! Sacrifice personal interests over the interests of the country and the nation.

It will be a positive role for Pakistan in this difficult time to take the right decision in the interest of the country and the nation. In this context, today the dear country is in dire need of political reconciliation in the most difficult hour. The result of our internal confusion is that terrorism from foreign countries, is increasing. Day by day lives and financial property is being destroyed. The economy is weak and the debt burden has been holding the country back for years. All political Constituents think not once but a million times and get the country out of uncertainty immediately. Stand up. Rather, our whole life is spent in need of them. Everyone in the country is forced to think about the future of the country and the nation in the coming time. Let's pray:

خدا کرے میری ارض پاک پر آتے
 وہ فصل کھل گئے اندیشہ زوال نہ ہو

Sustainable Infrastructure initiative

The World Wildlife Fund (WWF)-Pakistan here on Thursday launched "Sustainable Infrastructure Initiative", a hybrid model for participants from the Federal Capital linking virtually and dignitaries from the Gilgit Baltistan region attending in person.

The event was aimed to launch the research and planning previously conducted by the Sustainable Infrastructure team as well as launch the knowledge products that were developed as per the research conducted over the last two years. The government, NGOs, academia and media personnel attended the event.

The initiative is currently being executed through two projects; the Greening Linear Infrastructure in Snow Leopard Home Ranges of the Hindukush-Karakoram-Himalaya Landscape in Pakistan and Building Ecological and Sustainable Transport/Linear Infrastructure for Snow Leopard habitats in the Hindukush-Karakoram-Himalaya Landscape in Pakistan (BEAST)

Haider Raza, Director North and Regional Head WWF-Pakistan welcomed the participants and gave a brief on the linear Infrastructure and how WWF-Pakistan seeks to work on sustainable Infrastructure initiative in the HKH region of Pakistan.

Neshmiya Adnan Khan, Manager of Policy and Safeguards from WWF-Pakistan presented the previous two years' research work on Sustainable Infrastructure. She talked about the overarching objective of this initiative is to build across-the-board capacities, create awareness, and engage with relevant stakeholders from the government, academia, private sector entities, and local communities to advocate for sustainable and green infrastructure planning and development

Zermina from WWF-Pakistan briefed about the biodiversity safeguarding protocols of Pakistan. She briefed them about the current Biodiversity crisis in Pakistan. One, often overlooked, driver of biodiversity loss in Pakistan, is the rapidly increasing infrastructural developments including linear infrastructure and development that comes as a result of it. This provides a critical opportunity for actors and agencies to be in the vanguard of influencing the design, planning, and construction stages of infrastructure projects with the aim to achieve sustainability, resilience, and equity. Current biodiversity legislation and Environmental legislation of Pakistan were part of the discussion. Possible Gaps and Recommendations were discussed with the stakeholders, she told.

Ali Rawail from WWF-Pakistan talked about the Road Ecology Study (Road Kills) that how WWF-Pakistan plans to develop a baseline for snow leopard (and its prey species). Based on research findings of the research, hotspots will be identified for constructing wildlife corridors for Snow leopards and their prey species across the linear infrastructure. WWF-Pakistan also plans to assess infrastructure growth patterns and sprawl of hospitality infrastructure due to the construction of transport infrastructure in the HKH and its impact on snow leopard habitats. Representatives of EPA, Forest Wildlife Department and KIU gave their recommendations on the designing of the research study, and how it can have a long impact on the region.

The consultative launch event has been instrumental in guiding the development of WWF-Pakistan's Sustainable Infrastructure Initiative, discussing possible gaps and recommendations with the stakeholders. Director EPA Shehzad Shigri, Khadim Hussain Conservator Forest/Wildlife Department, lauded the work of WWF-Pakistan's Sustainable Infrastructure Initiative on Road Ecology Study and Biodiversity protocols.

Other dignitaries from NHA, Works Department, UNDP, AKR-SP, KIU, SDG PSDP GB, and CBOs also lauded the work of WWF-Pakistan begun on the Sustainable Infrastructure Initiative.



Amjad Rasmi

India seeks G20 success despite considerable tensions

Andrew Hammond

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi has high hopes for this year's G20 summit, even though it takes place amid the most unpredictable global landscape in decades.

On the one-year anniversary of Russia's invasion of Ukraine, the G20 finance ministers are making final preparations for their meeting this weekend. Meanwhile, the foreign ministers have their own session in India next week.

In total, India will hold more than 200 meetings across some 50 cities, involving ministers, officials and civil society. The pinnacle of this will be the leadership summit in New Delhi in September, which will be attended by about 30 heads of state and government, from both G20 members and invited countries, including Bangladesh, Egypt, Mauritius, the Netherlands, Nigeria, Oman, Singapore, Spain and the UAE, plus international organizations such as the UN, the World Health Organization, the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund.

Amid the international divisions over Ukraine, Modi has to navigate the G20 agenda with his stance that the conflict must be resolved through dialogue and diplomacy. India has decided to primarily focus on green development, women's empowerment, technological transformation and sustainable development.

He has called for a "depoliticization of the global supply of food, fertilizers and medical products, so that geopolitical tensions do not lead to humanitarian crises." Moreover, he has called for international cooperation to deal with global issues, arguing that the challenges of "climate change, terrorism and pandemics

can be solved not by fighting each other, but only by acting together."

One of the big uncertainties in the G20 process is the involvement of Russia. New Delhi has said that Moscow, as a key G20 member, will be "participating in this process... the grouping needs to speak with one voice, particularly on important issues that are affecting the world." However, President Vladimir Putin decided not to attend last year's summit in Indonesia.

In part, this is because tensions over Moscow's invasion caused diplomatic fireworks. G20 foreign ministers clashed repeatedly, with Russia's Sergei Lavrov walking out of meetings at least twice, and there were none of the customary group pictures of the so-called G20 family. With the Ukraine issue proving so divisive, there are potentially huge barriers to constructive discussions taking place again this year.

However, it is not just the Ukraine conflict that will cause challenges. Tensions have also long been high between China and the West. In this context of uncertainty, Modi is determined to try to stamp his mark as G20 host, not least given that it may impact his reelection bid next year.

The reason Modi is so keen to chair proceedings in advance of domestic elections is the prestige that the G20 enjoys. Presidents and prime ministers will likely be in attendance from China, Germany, India, Japan, Australia, Brazil, the UK, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Türkiye, France, Italy, Germany, Canada, South Korea, Argentina, Mexico, the EU, the US and possibly Russia too. Collectively, these powers account for some 90 percent of global gross domestic product, 80 percent of world trade and about 66 percent of the global population.

One priority for India is the outlook for the

world economy amid continuing concerns that key nations, including much of the West, may enter recession this year. Also on the agenda at the finance meeting will be the potential global regulation of cryptocurrencies and rising debt troubles among developing countries.

In December, the World Bank asserted that the globe's poorest countries owed \$62 billion in annual debt service to bilateral creditors, a year-on-year increase of about a third, triggering a higher risk of defaults. India is reportedly drafting a proposal that will see G20 countries help debtor nations badly hit by the economic downturn by asking big lenders to write down some of these loans. Two-thirds of the debt burden is owed to China.

New Delhi will also give support for a push by the IMF and the World Bank for the G20 Common Framework. This is a scheme launched in 2020 to help poor countries delay debt repayments and it could be expanded to include middle-income countries.

All of this highlights why this year could be one of the most unpredictable G20s. While it could collapse into rancor, there is an outside possibility that significant agreements could be made.

Modi is well aware that, while the G20 is widely seen to have seized the mantle from the G7 as the premier forum for international economic cooperation and global governance, it has failed so far to realize the full scale of the ambition some have thrust upon it. In part, this is because it has no formal mechanisms to ensure the enforcement of agreements by world leaders.

Despite all these issues, the Indian presidency will try to exceed expectations outcomes-wise. Whether it does this will depend greatly on whether Ukraine conflict-related divisions between the West and Russia ameliorate or grow in the weeks ahead.

Burnout in the workplace must be tackled

Maha Akeel

Another woman head of government resigned last week. Nicola Sturgeon, who was Scotland's longest-serving first minister, announced her resignation, citing the "brutality" of political life. She became the second high-profile female politician in the last month to cite exhaustion when standing down. A few weeks before her, New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern also resigned, stating that she no longer had "enough in the tank." Both women were powerful, visible figures and exhibited leadership during difficult times. But despite being popular, their ratings slipped among voters toward the end of their tenures. Nevertheless, their announcements both came as a surprise.

The reaction and comments following Ardern's resignation commended her courage and honesty at admitting exhaustion and knowing when to step down. Many commentators, opinion articles and studies appeared thereafter on social networks that talked about burnout — a state of emotional, mental and often physical exhaustion brought on by prolonged or repeated stress — and the mental health of employees in reacting to and facing stress and pressure, which in turn can lead to other health problems.

Several studies have indicated that all employees face an increased susceptibility to stress and burnout, especially post-pandemic, but the risk is disproportionately high for women. According to research on mental well-being, women are 23 percent more likely than men to struggle with a poor work-life balance and are 45 percent more likely to suffer from work stress.

This is not a call against women employment and leadership. On the contrary, it is an alarm bell on the need to address the societal structures and gender norms that are identified as factors in the increased risk of burnout for women. Women still bear most of the household, childcare and family commitments in addition to their jobs, and the stress for female-headed households is even greater. These tasks and chores

are unpaid, as well as underappreciated and rarely even acknowledged.

In Saudi Arabia, as more women enter the workforce and take up leadership positions, more policies of inclusion, diversity and equality should be implemented.

A recent Gallup poll showed that more Saudis, 24 percent in 2022 compared to 11 percent in 2019, are actively looking for a new job, in addition to the 48 percent in 2022 compared to 30 percent in 2019 who are not actively seeking but are open to new opportunities. Although the percentage of those who strongly agree that they are paid appropriately declined slightly from 2019 (43 percent) to 2022 (38 percent), the percentage of those who strongly agree that there are sufficient growth opportunities (from 52 percent to 44 percent) was significantly lower. And less than half (40 percent) strongly agree that their current employer offers good opportunities for development and training.

Although the study did not provide gender disaggregated data, the findings are telling. The study indicated that more than half of employees in Saudi Arabia report that they have felt burned out in the last month due to work-related stress, with this burnout increasing from 55 percent in 2019 to 57 percent in 2022, affecting not only work but also family life.

Last month, Saudi Arabia announced the adoption of its national policy to encourage equal opportunities and treatment in employment and occupation, which aims to eliminate all forms of discrimination, including those based on gender, race, ethnicity, age or disability. This is an important step in setting the principles, guidelines and policies that address the underlying causes of burnout.

Not only for the sake of retaining female talent, but for the sake of all employees, managers must recognize the signs of burnout and implement policies that offer support — emotional and mental — as well as mentoring, coaching and other ways to help workers cope because burnout affects performance and the quality of work. Creating a healthy and inclusive work environment and culture is conducive to creativity and productivity.

Increasing risk of NCDs can be countered: Dr. Arif Alvi

Spokesman Report

PESHAWAR: President Dr. Arif Alvi has said that in order to set up a healthy and balanced society, walking more and more, using stairs up to two or three floors instead of a lift, and consumption of fresh vegetables and fruits instead of a simple diet, excessive use of salt and sugar in food should be preferred to avoid Non-communicable diseases (NCDs). The increasing risk of NCDs and mortality ratio can be countered through a balanced diet and moderate exercise. The only sustainable solution to the growing number of diseases especially NCDs in poor countries with low education ratios like Pakistan is prevention.

He was addressing the closing session of the 3rd International Public Health Conference at Khyber Medical University (KMU) Peshawar as a chief guest, while Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Haji Ghulam Ali, Chief Minister Azam Khan, Advisor for Health Prof. Dr. Abid Jamil, vice-chancellor Prof. Dr. Zia ul Haq, Registrar Prof. Dr. Muhammad Salim Gandapur, Secretary Health, DG Health, deans, heads of various institutions, foreign delegates, faculty, medical experts and students were also present in large numbers on the occasion.



Dr. Arif Alvi said that while making any policy and strategy related to health, especially NCDs, we must keep social and societal needs, problems, and attitudes in mind. He said that women have a fundamental and key role in bringing up children. The complex health problems faced by the entire nation can be controlled to a great extent by proper training in public health. He said that we have no shortage of policies; the real problem is the implementation of these policies.

Dr. Arif Alvi said that there are 9 million births in Pakistan every

year, half of which are involuntary, through proper planning, information, and provision of facilities not only the increasing population can be controlled, but through this, it is also possible to solve the health problems of women and children. He said that nature has blessed us as a nation with immense abilities, but due to the lack of proper use of these resources and abilities, we have lagged behind our neighboring countries in the race for development in every field of life. Our political leadership instead of paying attention to social and public health

issues they are caught in personal interests and political disputes, which is of course a matter of concern for all of us.

"We need 900,000 nurses now, while there are only 200,000 nurses in the country, it will take us 50 years to reach the target of 900,000. Similarly, only 1900 psychiatrists are available for 220 million populations in the whole country, we need to move towards an online health system keeping in mind the modern needs and financial constraints," he added.

The President said that brain drain is an important issue in Pakistan; our valuable capital is being transferred abroad in the form of doctors and other professionals. While on the other hand, ignoring the principles of health, a large number of people are suffering from obesity, diabetes, and heart and mental diseases.

Earlier, The KMU vice-chancellor Prof. Dr. Zia ul Haq welcomed the guests while addressing the conference, he also highlighted the fifteen-year performance of the university and presented the objectives and recommendations of the conference, while Prof. Dr. Abdul Basit talked about the causes and prevention of diabetes and Prof. Dr. Samin Siddiqui discussed the situation and challenges of NCDs in Pakistan.

UAJK, KPRI organize seminar to observe Kashmiri Women's Resistance Day



News Desk

MUZAFFARABAD: On Kashmiri Women's Resistance Day, the Department of Psychology, University of Azad Jammu and Kashmir (UAJK) in collaboration with Kashmir Policy Research Institute (KPRI) organized a seminar that brought together a diverse range of speakers to discuss the experiences and contributions of Kashmiri women in the ongoing struggle for freedom and self-determination in the occupied valley.

According to a press release issued by the Public Relation Department of UAJK, the seminar was graced by several notable speakers, including Ms. Nisaran Abbasi MLA, Dr. Aysha Sohail Registrar UAJK, Dr. Raja Muhammad Sajjad Khan Director KPRI, Dr. Samina Sabir Khan Chairperson Department of Psychology, Dr. Sumera Shafique Director Institute of Kashmir Studies, Ms. Madeha Shakeel Department of International Relations and others.

The event provided a platform for these experts to share their perspectives,

research, and insights on the topic of Kashmiri women's resistance, as well as to highlight the challenges faced by women in the held territory and the ways in which they have contributed to the ongoing struggle for justice and freedom.



One of the key themes that emerged from the seminar was the importance of recognizing and valuing the contributions of Kashmiri women to the struggle for freedom and self-determination.

The speakers emphasized that while women have often been marginalized in discussions about Kashmiri resistance, they have played a critical role in shaping the movement and advocating for their deprived fundamental rights. From organizing protests and mobilizing support to providing care and support to those affected by violence and oppression, women have been at the forefront of the struggle for justice and freedom in Kashmir.

Another important theme that emerged from the seminar was the challenges faced by Kashmiri women in the context of ongoing conflict and violence by the Indian military and paramilitary forces. Speakers discussed the impact of conflict on women's physical and mental health, as well as the ways in which gender-based violence is used as a tool of repression and control in the region. They also highlighted the ways in which women are often excluded from decision-making processes and political institutions, further marginalizing their voices and perspectives.

Overall, the seminar on Kashmiri Women's Resistance Day was a powerful reminder of the importance of recognizing and valuing the contributions of Kashmiri women to the ongoing struggle for freedom and self-determination in the region. It provided a platform for experts to share their perspectives, research, and insights on this critical topic, and highlighted the challenges and opportunities for advancing women's rights and empowerment in the context of ongoing conflict and violence.

Fascist Indian forces using rape as war weapon to humiliate Kashmiris: Mushaal

Naveed Ahmad Khan

ISLAMABAD: Chairperson of Peace and Culture Organization, Mushaal Hussein Mullick said that the fascist Indian forces have been using rape as a weapon of war to humiliate the people of Indian illegally Occupied Jammu Kashmir (IIOJK) and suppress the powerful dissenting voices to defuse the flames of freedom struggle.

Speaking at a Roundtable Debate titled "Targeting Vulnerable Groups as a Weapon of War: Indian's Abuse and Impunity in Kashmir" organized by Legal Forum for Kashmir-LFK on occasion of the Kashmiri Women's Resistance Day observed on both sides of the Kashmir here on Thursday, she said that the notorious army forces were committing such heinous war crimes under the protection of draconian law, Armed Forces Special Powers Act (AFSPA), giving complete impunity to the brutal forces from accountability.

On the occasion, she paid tribute to the struggles and sacrifices of the survivors of mass rape and torture



in Kunanposhpora, who were yet to get justice despite lapse of 32 years and vowed that the brave Kashmiri women would not let go in vain their sacrifices.

Mushaal, a wife of incarcerated senior hurriyat leader Yasin Malik, said that as February 23 was one of the blackest days in the history of Kashmir when Indian troops entered Kunan-

poshpora area in Kupwara district and committed mass rape.

She said that Indian troops had gang-raped around 100 women of all ages from eight to eighty years old on the night of February 23 in 1991 during a siege and search operation in Kunanposhpora in Kupwara district.

The chairperson stated that Kunanposhpora mass rape was a glaring

example of Indian troops' brutalities in IIOJK. It is a blot on the so-called democratic face of India, which is using rape of women as an instrument of state terrorism in IIOJK.

She went on to say that the gravity of the situation could be judged from the fact that at least 682 women have been martyred by Indian troops since January 2001 till date. The Hurriyat leader stated that since January 1989, the unabated Indian state terrorism rendered 22,957 women widowed while Indian forces' personnel have molested 11,256 women. She stated that thousands of women lost their sons, husbands, fathers and brothers in the occupied territory who were subjected to custodial disappearance by Indian Army, police and paramilitary personnel.

Mushaal demanded that the international human rights organisations and word powers should take urgent steps for providing justice to the victims of the Kunanposhpora tragedy and made the culprits example so as no India troop could ever commit such heinous crime again.

Power China, and Port Qasim Power Projects to youth empowerment

Engr. Qaiser Nawab

Several studies have shown that employment is critical to the health of the economy. The term "emergency" refers to a situation in which a person's life is put in jeopardy due to an unforeseen event. It allows workers to increase their capacity for information as well as their expertise, which has a "snowball effect" on future recruitment opportunities by fostering the development of new businesses.

A significant increase in Pakistan's employment rate was only a fantasy and a dream prior to the development of the CPEC project. Unfortunately, the majority of domestic workers lacked the specialised skills and experience required for the jobs created by CPEC's early harvest programmes. As a result, Chinese businesses began to prioritise foreign workers. So, these projects employed far more unskilled domestic workers than qualified or technical Pakistani workers.

The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is an infrastructure development project worth billions of dollars that is part of China's Belt and Road Initiative. The CPEC project includes the expansion of Pakistan's Gwadar port, as well as the construction of roads, railways, and energy infrastructure. PowerChina, a Chinese state-owned enterprise, is actively involved in the construction of power infrastructure projects such as the Port Qasim Power Project under the CPEC programme.

In terms of youth empowerment particularly youth development and employment, the

CPEC project and associated energy infrastructure projects have the potential to open up new opportunities in Pakistan. For example, the design and operation of power plants such as the Port Qasim Power Plant necessitate a wide range of skills, including engineering, project management, and maintenance. Young people in Pakistan can improve their job prospects by acquiring these skills through education and training. The CPEC project has the potential to generate a wide range of jobs in industries such as tourism, hospitality, and logistics. Young people may find work in areas such as shipping and customs, as well as the development and management of hotels and resorts, as a result of the development of the Port of Gwadar, for example.

A number of infrastructure and development projects, including the CPEC, were launched in 2013 as part of China's grandiose "Belt and Road" initiative (BRI). It is a significant development project that will transform Pakistan's economy by constructing new transportation and energy infrastructure and connecting China to the Arabian Sea. The project entails the construction of a network of roads, railways, and pipelines to transport oil and gas from the port of Gwadar in south-west Pakistan to Xinjiang in north-west China. The term "solar power" refers to the use of solar energy to generate electricity. The plan also includes the development of industrial parks to attract foreign investment and boost manufacturing growth.

CPEC is expected to attract billions of dollars in foreign

investment and create thousands of new jobs in Pakistan, making it a game changer for the country's economy. Furthermore, the project aims to provide much-needed infrastructure to Pakistan's rural and impoverished areas, improving connectivity and expanding economic potential. However, the CPEC has come under fire from critics who see the initiative as a ploy by China to increase its influence in the region. Security issues have



also arisen as a result of the presence of separatist organisations in Pakistan's Baluchistan region, where Gwadar Port is located.

Power Construction Corporation of China, also known as PowerChina, is a Chinese state-owned company that focuses on energy and infrastructure construction. PowerChina, one

of the world's largest engineering and construction companies, operates in over 100 countries and regions. Among the Company's commercial ventures are the engineering, procurement, and construction (EPC) of power plants, hydroelectric projects, transmission lines, substations, and other infrastructure projects. PowerChina has been involved in a number of high-profile projects, including the construction of the Beijing-Shanghai high-

speed railway and the Three Gorges Dam, the world's largest hydroelectric power station, both of which have significantly aided China's energy and infrastructure growth.

PowerChina has recently participated in a number of international projects, the majority of which have been in developing countries. These projects include the construction of hydroelectric power plants, transmission lines, and other types of infrastructure in countries such as Pakistan, Indonesia, and Brazil. PowerChina has worked on a variety of renewable energy projects, including wind, solar, and biomass power plants. The company is investing heavily in the research and development of new clean energy technologies, with the goal of

producing 50 GW of renewable energy by 2025. POWERCHINA RESOURCES LTD (51% ownership) and Qatar's "AL-MIRQAB CAPITAL" (49% ownership) financed and established Port Qasim Electric Power Company (Private) Limited, also known as "PQEPCC". The Port Qasim Coal

Plant Project is primarily in charge of the investment, construction, operation, and management. It was established on August 12, 2014, in Pakistan's capital, Islamabad. More than 40 billion kilowatt hours of electricity have been produced since the project's inception, and it has been safely operational for 1800 days. The Port Qasim power plant project includes a comprehensive talent development strategy and a standardized management structure to ensure that all new hires feel comfortable in their roles as soon as possible.

100 of the first 150 Pakistani university graduates working in power plants received six-month training in similar Chinese power plants and were fully subsidized. Some of these graduates have gone on to become key professionals in the country's coal-fired power plant industry, holding key managerial positions. It has established itself as a green environmental protection powerhouse capable of powering all 4 million homes in Pakistan for four consecutive years, with the highest electricity generation load rate, highest electricity consumption, and lowest electricity price.

The "One Belt, One Road" China Pakistan Youth Development Initiative was proposed and implemented collaboratively by the All-China Youth Federation, PowerChina Group, and the Prime Minister Office for Youth Affairs. This was done in order to assist the youth of China and Pakistan in vigorously participating in the establishment of the China Pakistan Economic Corridor and to encourage the common development of the two

countries' youth in international cooperation.

According to the Sino-Pakistani youth development strategy, related CPEC projects will provide 1000 jobs and internships for young Pakistanis. The Prime Minister's Office of Pakistan Youth Affairs would openly recruit via social media, job boards, college recruitment, and other channels. Power Around 100 jobs and internships will be available at China's hydroelectric and thermal power project sites and offices in Karachi, Islamabad, Kashmir, Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa, and other locations, including relevant commercial and technical positions.

It is critical to remember that the impact of CPEC projects on employment and youth development is still being studied. Some have questioned the project due to its lack of transparency and the possibility of debt and reliance on China. Concerns have been raised about the project's ability to benefit local workers and communities, as well as whether it will result in locals being evicted from their homes and losing their traditional livelihoods.

As a result, while the CPEC project and related energy infrastructure initiatives have the potential to create job opportunities for Pakistani youth, it is critical to ensure that the project's benefits are distributed fairly and that there are no unintended consequences.

Engr. Qaiser Nawab, a highly esteemed international expert on the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), Middle East, Central Asia, and Africa can be reached at qaisernawab098@gmail.com for any inquiries or collaborations.

Bull & Bears
PSX 100-Share
Index Fluctuation

Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index

Current	Prev. Close
40,838.51	41,167.60
Day's High	Day's Low:
41,168.22	40,772.52
Index Value	Change
5,110,233,235	-329.09
Percentage	Time
-0.8%	23 Feb, 2023 5:00 pm

Europe: FTSE 100 Index

Index Value	Change
7,907.72	-22.91
Percentage	Time
0.29%	23 Feb, 4:35 pm GMT

USA: Dow Jones Industrial Average

Index Value	Change
32,831.63	-213.46
Percentage	Time
-0.65%	23 Feb, 12:23 pm GMT-5

Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average

Index Value	Change
27,104.32	-368.78
Percentage	Time
-1.34%	22 Feb, 3:15 pm GMT+9

Open Market Forex Rates

Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	182	184.4
Bahrain Dinar	699.4	707.4
Canadian Dollar	194	196.2
China Yuan	38.28	38.68
Danish Krone	37.65	38.05
Euro	279.00	281.80
Hong Kong Dollar	33.45	33.8
Indian Rupee	3.16	3.27
Japanese Yen	2.06	2.11
Kuwaiti Dinar	857.79	866.79
Malaysian Ringgit	59.33	59.93
New Zealand \$	163.68	165.68
Norwegians Krone	25.78	26.08
Omani Riyal	683.05	691.05
Qatari Riyal	71.89	72.59
Saudi Riyal	69.80	70.50
Singapore Dollar	194	196
Swedish Korona	25.32	25.62
Swiss Franc	283.76	286.26
Thai Bhat	7.61	7.76
U.A.E Dirham	71.80	72.50
UK Pound Sterling	316.50	319.50
US Dollar	262.50	265.12

CSAIL begs 2 corporate social responsibility awards

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: China Three Gorges South Asian Investment Limited (CSAIL), was awarded 2 awards in 15th Annual CSR Award organized by NFEH in five-star hotel in Islamabad. The event was graced by the Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Ahsan Iqbal, Federal Minister for SAFRON Talha Mahmood & Chairman NEPRA Tauseef H. Farooqi. NFEH is affiliated with the United Nations Environmental Program (UNEP), the Ministry of Climate Change, the Ministry of Environment, Climate Change & Coastal Development, and other government departments.

CSAIL begs 2 awards in two categories, The Green Energy Initiative and The Government Initiatives & Distributions. The awards were awarded for CSAIL's unwavering commitment towards green initiative, community development, and corporate social responsibility. The awards were received by N.A Zuberi, (Senior Advisor), Naeem Akhtar (General Manager) & Moazz Awan (Senior Manager) on behalf of CSAIL.

Later in the session, N.A Zuberi delivered a presentation about CSAIL, its investments and



its project companies. He highlighted CSAIL's steadfast commitment to community development, social awareness, and stakeholder participation at its project companies

China Three Gorges South Asia Investment Limited is an investment holding company formed by China Three Gorges Corporation in the year 2011 to acquire, develop, build,

own and operate renewable power generation projects in the South Asian region with a focus on Pakistan.

CSAIL is currently operating and developing 6 power projects in Pakistan, with total installed capacity of over 2600 MW with more than USD 6 Billion of total investment. These Projects are 1124 MW Kohala HPP, 720 MW Karot HPP, 640 MW Mahi HPP, 49.5 MW TGF, 49.5 MW TGS and 49.5 MW TGT.

Last year when flash floods ravaged the south of Pakistan, CSAIL donated 650,000 USD to the Government of Pakistan, fulfilling its corporate social responsibility and helping the people of Pakistan in their time of need.

Under the Biodiversity Management Plan (BMP), Karot Project is protecting and conserving the flora and fauna of the project area with a special focus on the conservation of species of importance. Furthermore, national parks management plans and sediment mining plans have also been developed.

Under community development, The Project company of CSAIL, Karot Project has completed 14 projects under its CIP, both in Punjab and AJ&K for the shared benefit and welfare of the local community around the Karot Project.

FrieslandCampina and Engro Eximp FZE partner for dairy exports worldwide

Commerce Reporter

ISLAMABAD: FrieslandCampina Engro Pakistan (FCEPL) and Engro Eximp FZE (EEF) signed a Franchise Agreement to enhance dairy exports from Pakistan.

In line with FrieslandCampina's global purpose of nourishing by nature, this partnership will enable FCEPL to expand its global footprint. Together, FCEPL and EEF will serve the Pakistani diaspora and markets which are milk-deficient, as well as uplift the dairy farmer community of Pakistan.

Imran Husain, CFO and strategic supply chain director FCEPL, said: "This partnership will unlock a new chapter for FCEPL and our farmers. Growing our export base will help further our purpose of providing nutrition and improving livelihoods of our farmers while



bringing in foreign currency earnings for Pakistan, which is essential in the current economic situation. We are pleased to partner with Engro Eximp FZE as the global franchise for

exports and are confident that their trading expertise will be integral to collective growth."

Talking about this collaboration, Ghias Khan, President & CEO, Engro Corporation, said: "Engro's strategic partnership with FCEPL is of critical importance. The agreement will increase Pakistan's dairy exports bringing in much needed foreign exchange to the country while enriching farmers' livelihoods. Pakistan can serve as a food basket of the Middle East, and Engro is confident that this partnership is a formative step in that direction."

The agreement was signed between Imran Husain, CFO and strategic supply chain director FCEPL and Kaleem Asghar, CEO, Engro Eximp FZE, at the Gulfoods 2023 in Dubai, in the presence of FCEPL team and Ghias Khan, President & CEO, Engro Corporation.

Real Estate Consultants Association demands end to 7e tax in mini-budget

News Desk

RAWALPINDI: Secretary General Real Estate Consultants Association Adil Nawaz Bhatti said that in the mini-budget, the unnecessary pressure on real estate, the guarantor of the country's development and the most important sector, has not been reduced and our demands have been completely ignored. We demand that unjust tax like 7e i.e. deem rental tax should be removed from this sector. This tax has caused irreparable damage to the country's economy and especially to the real estate sector. If this tax is kept in force, the withdrawal of foreign



exchange from Pakistan will continue. Due to the pressure on the real estate sector, 52 industries associated with this sector are suffering from continuous decline and thousands of real estate agents associated with this sector are unable to run their businesses and a large number of real estate setups have been forced to close their businesses. We demand the government to remove the 7e tax from finance bill immediately.

Preparing water tanks

LAHORE: A worker is busy in preparing stainless steel water tank in his factory at Iron Market in Provincial Capital.



Photo: Online

ABHI provided AbhiSalary

Spokesman Report

KARACHI: Pakistan-ABHI, a financial technology company, has partnered with Hilal Group, a leading fast-moving consumer goods (FMCG) company, to provide AbhiSalary, an Earned Wage Access product, to Hilal's workforce. The move aims to reduce financial stress and improve productivity among Hilal's employees, who can now access their earned salaries before payday in just 30 seconds.

Hilal Group, which exports its high-quality branded food products to over 20 countries and aims to generate Rs 20 billion by 2023, has also made AbhiSalary available as a financial wellness benefit to



the employees of Hilal Foods, Hilal Care, Domino's Pakistan, and Shalimar Foods.

On the day of signing the partnership agreement, Mr Saad Ali Khan, Group CFO of Hilal Group of Companies, stressed the importance of providing financial wellness benefits to employees by

saying "During this time, it's important for companies to provide a financial wellness benefit to their employees. We're proud to join hands with ABHI to financially empower our workforce of over 2000 hard-working people and enable them to access their earned wages at any time of

the month."

Mohammad Zaidi, Director of Sales and Business Development at ABHI said, "We are proud to partner with Hilal Group and financially empower 2000 salaried individuals. With AbhiSalary, they won't need to wait for 30 days to access their salaries and will be able to make financial decisions with their own income."

Overall, the partnership between ABHI and Hilal Group is a significant step towards improving financial well-being and increasing productivity among employees in Pakistan's FMCG industry. Discover more about ABHI and their services by visiting: www.abhi.com.pk or contact their public relations representative below.

Careem celebrates 10 years of simplifying lives

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: 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 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."

Faysal Bank Posts 67% Growth in Profit

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Faysal Bank Limited (FBL) achieved the landmark of Rs. 1 trillion in Balance Sheet footings with a record Profit Before Tax of Rs. 22.4 billion, 67% higher than the last year.

The Board of Directors of FBL, in their meeting held on February 23, 2023, approved the financial statements of the Bank for the year ended December 31, 2022, and announced a final cash dividend of Re. 1 per share i.e. 10%, bringing the total cash dividend for the year to Rs. 7 per share or 70%.

The Bank has successfully completed the largest conversion of a Conventional Bank into an Islamic Bank in history. This is a testimony to the steadfast vision of its board, the devotion of its management, the perseverance of its staff, and the support of



customers. This massive Islamic conversion is unprecedented not just in Pakistan, but all around the world and has been recognized by the Islamic International Rating Agency (IIRA) as the largest in the world.

FBL achieved the landmark of Rs. 1.0 trillion mark in balance sheet footings on the back of strong deposit mobilization and borrowings. Current deposit momentum built over the last several quarters continued and with a 29% growth over December 2021 reached Rs. 277 billion. Total deposits increased by 21% over December 2021 which is 3 times of the market growth in deposits.

KPEZDMC issues LOI to infraCo Asia for solarization of economic zones

Commerce Reporter

ISLAMABAD: As the world grapples with the urgent need to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and mitigate the effects of climate change, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) is taking a significant step towards sustainable economic development. The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Economic Zone Development and Management Company (KPEZDMC) has issued a Letter of Intent (LOI) to InfraCo Asia to undertake a complete feasibility study for the solarization of economic zones in KP. The LOI signifies the commitment of KPEZDMC and InfraCo Asia to work together in exploring the potential of solar energy and expanding its use in the province's economic zones.

Solar energy is not only a critical component of the global efforts to combat climate change, but it also has the potential to play a transformative role in promoting sustainable economic development. By harnessing the province's immense potential for solar energy, KP can, thus, reduce its reliance on fossil fuels, minimize its carbon emissions, and create new opportunities for businesses and employment in the region.

"Innovation and collaboration are key to driving sustainable economic growth. Through this partnership, we aim to harness the potential of renewable energy while also creating new opportunities for businesses and people in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa," said Jo Moir, Development Director, British High Commission, Pakistan.

The Sustainable Energy and Economic Development (SEED) Programme has been providing technical support to the Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa since inception, culminating in the signing of the LOI. The SEED Programme is funded by the U.K.'s Foreign, Commonwealth, & Development Office (FCDO).

Dr. Omar Mukhtar Khan, Team Lead, SEED, shared, "The solarization of economic zones in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa will help reduce energy costs and improve the reliability and affordability of energy supply. By embracing renewable energy, we can create a more sustainable and prosperous future for our province."

Winning streak to continue in next matches, Rizwan

Sports Desk

MULTAN: Captain of Multan Sultan and star batsman of the national cricket team Muhammad Rizwan said that the team would continue the same momentum to continue the winning streak in the next matches going to be played at other venues.

Holding a press conference after

the match at Multan Cricket Stadium on Wednesday, he said the crowd of Multan has always supported both teams in all matches but the support of the crowd was in Multan's favour at the last ball of the match.

He said the pitch was supporting bowlers and batsmen equally but the bowlers of his team bowled very well today and played a vital role in the

victory.

To a question, Rizwan said Pollard was a senior player in the team and his advice was always useful for the team but the captain also has to see everything before taking any decision.

He said early on, the ball was coming much better on the pitch which was being played well by Shan Masood. He said the winning streak would

be maintained in future matches after leaving the home ground, adding that at a stage the Karachi Kings got a strong grip on the match but the bowlers especially the spell by Khushdil Shah and Usama Mir was the turning point.

He said he can not give up till the last bowl of the match, adding that the team was playing every match as a challenge.

Sunny Masih and Minhaj Warraich rise as leaders in 9th J.A.Zaman Open Golf

Tahir Amin Malik

LAHORE: The six days 9th J.A.Zaman Memorial Open Golf Championship being held in memory of the noblest of icons J.A.Zaman is in progress at the historic par 72 Lahore Gymkhana Golf Course. Out of the six days, two (Tuesday and Wednesday) were reserved for events like veterans, senior amateurs and lady amateurs. The following four days starting from Thursday to Sunday (18 holes round each day) were days for the professional golf champions of the country, ninety eight of whom were eligible to seek appealing cash prizes totaling six million rupees as well as honors in the shape of the esteemed J.A.Zaman Golf Title. Another segment of golfers falling in the grading men amateurs would compete over three days starting from Friday.

Regarding senior golf professionals and junior golf professionals the assigned days were Wednesday and Thursday, 18 holes each day adding up to a total of 36 holes.

And as for the golfing activity during the 18 holes on Thursday, the 98 golf professionals played with self assurance, golfing grace and equilibrium and as the 18 holes concluded the front runners were two bright young stars of the national



golf circuit. Sunny Masih of Lahore Gymkhana, a product of the Jinnah Development Tour was one and a youthful Minhaj Warraich of Rawalpindi Golf Club another. Both these professionals are on the rise and showed their capabilities by appearing as joint leaders in this Zaman Family backed golf championship through similar scores of gross 68, four under par. This amazing score of gross 68 was achieved through praiseworthy hitting off the tees, crisp and sharp shot making from the fairways and nerve free putting on the greens. Sunny Masih's hole by hole performance was five birdies on holes 2,8,10,15 and 16, twelve regulation pars and one bogie on the 6th hole. A

real meritorious show of golf playing ability.

Analysis of Minhaj Warraich's round was birdies on holes 1,5,7,13 and 15 (five in all), regulation pars on twelve holes and a single bogie on the 4th hole.

While Sunny and Minhaj have surfaced as leaders, they have two accomplished adversaries in the form of M.Munir (Rawalpindi) and Ahmed Baig (Royal Palm) placed just one stroke behind them. M.Munir is a very seasoned golf professional with a number of golf titles to his credit and Ahmed Baig is regarded as most classy player of the country from whom expectations are rather high as he stands chosen to compete in three Asian Tour Events next month.

M.Munir played a round of gross 69, three under par and Ahmed Baig also played gross 69, three under par.

A few others in line for top performances are Matloob Ahmed (Lahore Garrison) at gross 70 followed by eight golf professionals bunched together at a score of gross 71, one under par, their names being Usman Ali (Garrison), Talat Ijaz (Gymkhana), Amjad Yousaf (Margalla Greens), Abdul Zahoor (Multan), Aamir Khan (Peshawar), Muhammed Imran (Defence Raya), M. Rehman (Royal Palm) and Bilal Khan (Sargodha). That reflects on the fearsome competitive activity facing in this six million rupees prize money J.A.Zaman Golf Championship.

At a score of gross 72 are placed ten golf professionals. They are Muhammed Sajid, Muhammed Shahzad, Kashif Masih, Muhammed Alam, Akbar Mehroz, Shahid Javed Khan, Waheed Baloch, Syed Bilal Hussain, Khalid Khan and the great one Shabbir Iqbal, winner of 200 titles.

This round has produced amazing performances by our golf professionals. However there is still a lot of competitive activity left and changes on the leader board are most likely as the championship progresses.

The tee off on Friday will take place at 7 am at Lahore Gymkhana Golf Course.

National Snow Hike 2023 held at Ganga Peak



Abdul Waheed Khan

ISLAMABAD, BAGH PAKISTAN: The Alpine Club, in collaboration with MTBC, organized the National Snow Hike 2023 at Ganga Peak on 19 February 2023. The event brought together renowned personalities, including Mr. Shahid ul Islam, DD Sports Board Islamabad, Abu Zafar Sadiq, President Alpine Club Pakistan, Prof. Athar Sheikh, Sohail Hassan, Amman Ullah Mani President Bagh Alpine Club, Raees Inqalabi, Hassan Sadpara, and Mountaineers and national athletes from all four provinces of Pakistan, AJK, and GB.

The participants enjoyed a breathtaking view of the snow-capped mountain and the serene landscape of Ganga Peak, which provided them with a unique hiking experience. The event was a significant milestone for sports tourism in Kashmir, providing an opportunity for the local and international community to experience the beauty of Pakistan's mountains.

MTBC, as the main sponsor of the event, was highly appreciated by the participants for their contribution and support in making the event a success. They acknowledged MTBC's continuous efforts to promote adventure sports and Tourism in Pakistan and for their commitment to promoting sports tourism in the country.

The National Snow Hike 2023 was a platform for athletes and outdoor enthusiasts to showcase their skills, strength, and passion for hiking. The participants praised the efforts of the Alpine Club for organizing such an incredible event, and expressed their gratitude for the opportunity to be a part of it.

Overall, the National Snow Hike 2023 was a huge success, and the Alpine Club and MTBC hope to continue organizing such events in the future to promote sports tourism in Pakistan.

Najam Sethi thanks Multan's crowd for overwhelming response

News Desk

MULTAN: Chairman Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) Najam Sethi extended thanks to the overwhelming crowd of Multan for their support in the five matches at Multan Cricket Stadium, during Pakistan Super League's 8th edition matches.

In a statement issued here on Wednesday, Najam Sethi said that Multan crowd once again proved that what PSL meant to them by showing their presence in a massive number.

He also paid thanks to local administration for successful staging HBL PSL matches in Multan. He said that the Multan Sultans and Karachi Kings thoroughly entertained the crowd in the last match played here, adding the said match would be remembered for a long time.

Extra curricular activities along with study play a very essential role in student's life: Olympian Iftikhar



Sports Reporter

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 Yousuf, 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 Taekwondo 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.

Arrangements for the upcoming Horse and Cattle Show

Sports Reporter

LAHORE: Secretary Sports and Youth Affairs Punjab Shahid Zaman has directed all the departments concerned to make excellent arrangements for the upcoming Horse & Cattle Show scheduled to be organised from March 10 to 12, 2023. He issued these directions while chairing a key meeting to review preparations of grand Horse & Cattle Show at National Hockey Stadium on Thursday.

Director General Sports Punjab Muhammad Tariq Qureshi, Director Admin Ijaz Muneer, Director Youth Affairs Syed Umair Hassan, Director Sports Chand Perveen, Assistant Director Zahoor Ahmed and other officials attended the meeting.

The representatives and officials of Police Department, Lahore Arts Council, Punjab Arts Council, Metropolitan Corporation Lahore and Education Department were also present in the important meeting.

Director General Sports Punjab Muhammad Tariq Qureshi threw light on all key features and arrangements of Horse & Cattle Show in his detailed briefing in the meeting.

Addressing the meeting, Secretary Sports and Youth Affairs Punjab Shahid Zaman informed that the teams from all four provinces, Islamabad, Gilgit Baltistan and Azad Kashmir will take part in sports events of Horse & Cattle Show. "Best facilities should be provided to all participating teams and officials of Horse & Cattle Show sports events," he directed the officials concerned.

Secretary Sports and Youth Affairs Punjab Shahid Zaman further said that a 42.5km cycle race will also be conducted. "The clearance and security of cycle race routes will be the responsibility of Lahore Metropolitan Corporation and Police," he added.

Director General Sports Punjab Muhammad Tariq Qureshi on this occasion informed that a grand marathon race will also be organized in Horse & Cattle Show in which every citizen can participate.

He said that Social Media Groups of relevant departments have been formed for best coordination during the Horse & Cattle Show. "Around 350 performers will participate in grand Unity Show. Besides this Lahore Arts Council and Punjab Arts Council will conduct Ghazal Night and Bahar Mushaira as well during Horse & Cattle Show," he elaborated.

Wheelchair Tournament

KARACHI: Wheelchair player are participating in a game during wheelchair tournament at YMCA ground, in Provincial Capital.



Photo: Online

PSL 8: Gurbaz wreaks havoc as Islamabad United thump Peshawar Zalmi

A Sports -

KARACHI: Right-handed opener Rahmanullah Gurbaz struck a quickfire half-century and bolstered Islamabad United to thrash Peshawar Zalmi by six wickets in the 12th match of the Pakistan Super League (PSL) season eight.

Set to chase a mere 157, the United comfortably steered to a six-wicket victory with 31 balls to spare at the back of a scintillating half-century by Gurbaz.

Earlier, the United opens Gurbaz provided his side with a flying start despite his partner Colin Munro perishing cheaply for just nine.

The right-handed charged on

the Zalmi bowlers as he brought up his half-century in just 24 deliveries before falling in the ninth over after scoring a quickfire 61.

Gurbaz faced a mere 31 balls on his way to 61, hitting seven boundaries and four sixes.

Following his dismissal, Rassie van der Dussen stitched brief yet crucial partnerships with Shadab Khan (3) and Asif Ali before departing in the 13th over when his side needed just 17 in 42 deliveries.

He scored 42 off just 29 deliveries and hit six boundaries.

Following his dismissal, Asif then put on an unbeaten match-winning partnership with Azam Khan (9*) and propelled

his side to a dominating six-wicket victory. Asif remained unbeaten on 29. He faced just 13 deliveries and smashed four boundaries including three sixes.

For Zalmi, Usman Qadir, Arshad Iqbal and James Neesham could pick up a wicket.

Put into bat first, the Zalmi could raise 156/8 in 20 overs despite a gritty 75-run knock by their skipper Babar Azam and a brisk knock of 41 by Mohammad Haris.

The opening pair of Zalmi gave the side a flying start against the United as they added 76 runs within seven overs before Shadab provided a much-needed breakthrough by removing Haris on the final delivery.

Haris scored quickfire 41 runs off just 20 deliveries, hitting four boundaries and a six.

Young batting sensation Saim Ayub fell victim to Mubasir Khan in the next over for just three before Hasan Ali struck twice in the 10th over to push Zalmi to the backfoot as the side slipped to 88/4 in 10 overs.

Zalmi could not recover from the collapse and kept losing wickets at an alarming rate which halted their march towards a big total.

Babar, on the other hand, held his ground firm and carried his bat all the way through but some tight bowling display from the United barred Zalmi from amassing a big total.



Skipper Babar remained the top-scorer for his side with 75 off 58 deliveries, laced with seven

boundaries and a six. Hasan led the bowling attack for the United with 3/35 while

Shadab, Rumman Raees, Faheem Ashraf and Mubasir made one scalp each.