سؓ نے بیان کیا کہ ابو بکر ؓ نے ان کے ليے فرض ز کوة کابيان تحرير کياتھاجور سول الله مَثَالِثَةِ إِنَّهُ إِنَّ مُقْرِرِي تَقْيلِ آئِلُم

**Barkat Rice Mills** (Pvt) Limited

**Punjab's Business community to support** Sindh schools: Balighur Rehman

Simultaneously published from Islamabad, Lahore and Multan

Sha'aban 4, Saturday, February 25, 2023



www.dailyspokesman.net

President Zelenskyy's Peace Formula aims to deprive Russia of ability to commit the crime of aggression against Ukraine, to ensure safety and justice for the global community. Almost a year ago, Russia started its unprovoked and

unjustified war of aggression against Ukraine. The fact that this aggression is illegal under international law is beyond any doubt. (Details on Page 5)



(a) @daily spokesman



Daily Spokesman Vol: 15, Issue: 322 Price Rs. 25.00 Pages 8

# Specail Session Ambassador Munir Akram, Permanent Representative of Pakistan to the UN delivering Explanation of Vote by Pakistan after adoption of resolution during General Assembly: Eleventh Emergency Special Session (Ukraine).

## PM calls for national unity to make Pakistan an economic tiger

**Spokesman Report** 

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Friday said that setting aside personal likes and dislikes and forging national unity was a must to alleviate poverty and make Pakistan an economic tiger.

The prime minister, chairing a review meeting on the implementation of the National Action Plan attended by civil and military leadership, said national unity was the only way forward to save Pakistan and make it a great nation.

He told the participants that after a terrorist attack in Peshawar on February 3, the civil and military authorities had held a seven-hour long session and took several decisions.

He also after an attack on the Karachi police office, the personnel of Sindh police, Rangers and

Chaudhary

**Party** 

**Staff Reporter** 

Nisar Hints At

Joining a New

Minister Chaudhary Nisar Ali

Khan on Friday stated that he

doesn't want to criticise Paki-

stan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI)

Chief Imran Khan nor does

he want to badmouth Pakistan Muslim League - Nawaz

(PML-N) by joining PTI.



the terrorists. He also prayed for high ranks in the paradise for the soldiers martyred during the

The prime minister said after the terrorist attack on the Army Public School of Peshawar, the

Pakistan Army bravely fought national leadership had formulated a National Action Plan.

He said that time Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif had invited all the national leaders including those "who did not want to see the matter straightforwardly" however, the decisions were made to revive peace in the country. He told the participants that

after the Peshawar attack, the the friendly countries was no less government also invited all the than Allah's blessing, but the forestakeholders but that particular most priority should be to put our party did not bother to attend the

"They still want to resolve the matter on the streets that was highly condemnable," he

The prime minister said Pakistan currently faced economic challenges and expressed the hope that the situation would improve after the matters with the International Monetary Fund were finalised in near future.

He maintained that though the government was compelled to accept strict IMF conditions, the state of Pakistan was above all. Even the government's coalition parties also put their political interests at stake for the sake of the country and to improve the

economic situation.

He said that cooperation by own house in order otherwise no one would come up for help.

Mentioning the killings and arrest of terrorists during different military actions, Prime Minister Shehbaz said the security agencies were making their efforts to ensure the security of citizens.

"If we act egoistically in this situation too, and compromise over Pakistan, this is not politics," he commented.

The prime minister said for the security of future generations, it was a must for all to realise the sensitivity of the situation.

He recalled that Pakistan had sacrificed around 83,000 lives of

its soldiers, politicians, and their families, and common citizens to restore the "peace for the world."

## CJP Bandial intends to wrap up the case by next week

News Desk

RAWALPINDI: Former Home ISLAMABAD: The PML-N, the PPP, the JUI-F and other parties raised objection to the nine-member bench of the Supreme Court hearing the suo motu case regarding delay in Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa elections, saying a full bench should be made to hear the case.

While addressing a rally in Anine-member bench, headed by Chief Justice Umar Ata Bandithe Chakra area, Rawalpindi, the senior politician Chaudal and comprising Justice Ijazul hary Nisar said that during his Ahsan, Justice Munib Akhtar. 35 years in a political career, Justice Syed Mazahar Ali Akbar Allah gave him the courage to Naqvi, Justice Syed Mansoor Ali Shah, Justice Jamal Khan refuse many great positions. Mandokhail, Justice Yahya Afri-"I have spent a wonderful time in PML-N, after the elecdi, Justice Athar Minallah and tion I will join another party Justice Muhammad Ali Mazhar,

Bar President Shoaib Shaheen

and Attorney General of Pakistan

Shehzad Ata Elahi and Additional

Attorney General Amir Rehman

with respect," said Khan. is hearing the case. Chaudhary Nisar Ali Khan Barrister Ali Zafar represented stated that he told PTI chief the Punjab and KP speakers. The Imran Khan that he doesn't JUI-F is represented by Kamran Murtaza, PPP by Farooq H Naek, need any position. Moreover, adding that he doesn't want to Nayer Bukhar and Farhatullah criticise PTI Chief Imran Khan Babar, PML-N by Mansoor Awan, nor does he want to badmouth the Punjab governor by Advocate PML-N by joining PTI. Mustafa Ramday. Supreme Court During his address about Bar Association President Abid Zuberi, Islamabad High Court

his former party, he expressed his opinion that PML-N's former chief Nawaz Sharif only succeeded because he got an efficient team.



also attended the hearing.

At the outset of the hearing, Mr Naek raised objections over inclusion of Justice Ijazul Ahsan and Justice Mazahar Naqvi. He said the suo motu notice was taken by the chief justice on the note of both judges in Ghulam Mahmood Dogar's service case, therefore, they should separate themselves from the bench. The PPP lawyer also sought formation of the larger bench to hear the poll date case.

Meanwhile, the PML-N, the JUI-F and the PPP also submitted a joint statement in the court, raising objection to the presence of two judges. They said both judges

should not hear the case. The CJP remarked it was his prerogative to take a suo motu

notice. "Today is meant to mark the attendance of all stakeholders," he said, adding that representatives of all four provinces were present in court. Later, the chief justice adjourned the hearing till

On Thursday, the bench issued notices to Attorney General for Pakistan (AGP) Shehzad Ata Elahi, Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP), government through the cabinet secretary, chief secretaries of Punjab and KP, Pakistan Bar Council (PBC), the Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA), all the advocate generals of the provinces, and the Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM), directing them to submit their arguments on Friday (today).

Blackmailers, mafia imposed on country, reiterates Fawad



**City Reporter** 

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf(PTI) senior leader Fawad Chaudhry said on Friday the government comprised of blackmailers and mafias being imposed on the country.

Speaking to media, Mr Chaudhry said the matter of the elections was being heard in the Supreme Court. He slammed Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) senior vice president Maryam Nawaz, saying she had begun to speak out against the judiciary.

He added Ms Nawaz was of the view that she would exert pressure on the judiciary.

Speaking about the significance of the judiciary's role, Mr Chaudhry said, "Right now, the entire nation is looking up to the judiciary." He appealed to the apex court to give a ruling without caring about any group.

Continuing to express his thoughts, Mr Chaudhry said, "The judiciary is being subjected to persistent targeting."

## PM, various leaders discuss political situation in separate meetings

leaders including Member National Assembly (MNA) ChaudhryEhsan-ul-HaqBajwa, former Members Provincial Assembly (MPAs) Sufi Akram, ZahidAkram, President of PML-N Balochistan-Jaffar Khan Mandokhel and former Chief Minister Gilgit-Baltistan Hafiz HafeezurRehman separately called on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Friday.

During the meeting with MNA ChaudhryEhsan-ul-HaqBajwa and former with former GB Chief Minis-MPAs Sufi Akram and Zahi- ter Hafiz HafeezurRehman.

ISLAMABAD: Political dAkram, matters relating to the relevant constituencies as well as political situation were discussed.In meeting with President of Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz, Jaffar Khan Mandokhel, matters about the progress on development project, initiated on the direction of the Prime Minister and the positive public reaction in that respect were discussed.

The political situation in Gilgit-Baltistan was discussed in detail during the meeting

#### Security forces kill terrorist in Awaran IBO

Spokesman Report

RAWALPINDI: A terrorist was killed on Friday during an intelligence-based operation (IBO) conducted by the security forces in Awaran district, Balochistan on a credible lead with regards to the presence of a hideout of terrorists involved in recent improvised explosive device (IED) attacks in

surprised the terrorists, Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) said on Friday.

It said the terrorist was sent to hell during the ensuing operation in exchange of fire, whereas a large cache of weapons and ammunition was also seized.

"The security forces of Pakistan will continue to thwart any attempt by inimical elements to disrupt hard-A heliborne force was used earned peace in the province," to sanitise the area which the ISPR said.

## Khawaja Asif calls for full court bench



跨 City Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Defence Khawaja Muhammad Asif on Friday called for a full court bench of the Supreme Court to hear the suo motu notice case regarding the announcement of a date for elections of the provincial assemblies of Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

Speaking in the National Assembly, the minister said a nine-member larger bench of the apex court was already in view of its utmost importance, it would be appropriate for a full court bench should be constituted for the purpose.

He said there should be no impression of any trespass by parliamentarians into the jurisdiction of other institutions. "But as a political worker, I demand that the complicated situation being faced by the country for the last 7-8 months must be resolved," he

Asif said the full court bench might initiate the review of the SC verdicts right from the Panama Papers case, and the resultant decisions would have a positive impact on the country's future.

All the stakeholders must be listened to and then the final engaged with the case, but verdict should be a roadmap

#### **Toshakhana Case: NAB** team visits Imran Khan's residence

👺 Bureau Report

LAHORE: A team of National Accountability Bureau (NAB) has visited the residence of former prime minister and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan in relation to Toshakhana case.

The accountability watchdog team visited Imran Khan's residence for signature on summon notices issued to former premier and his wife Bushra Bibi

Sources told that the PTI chairman's lawyer received the notice on the latter's behalf.

It is pertinent to mention here that the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) has summoned former prime minister Imran Khan his wife Bushra Bibi and other PTI leaders in Toshakhana case

The PTI chairman has been asked to appear before the anti-corruption watchdog on March 9 at 2:30 pm.

The development came after NAB Chairman Aftab Sultan resigned from the post citing personal reasons.

Sultan had presented his resignation to Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, a statement released by the Prime Minister's Office stated.

"The prime minister appreciated the services of Aftab Sultan and lauded his honesty and uprightness. Upon his insistence, the prime minister reluctantly accepted the resignation of Sultan," said the PM Office.

Sources revealed that Aftab Sultan resigned from his office after "he was asked to do

# The Spokesman

### Group Photo with Frist Lady

MULTAN: First Lady in a group photo with the administration and staff of the Violence Against Women Centre (VAWC)



## President for improving Pakistan-Kazakhstan trade and economic relations

跨 Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi has called for improving Pakistan-Kazakhstan trade and economic relations, adding that both countries had great scope to expand cooperation in the areas of trade and economy. He pointed out that the potential of trade between the two brotherly countries was much greater than the current level of bilateral trade, and there was a clear need to explore new avenues to boost bilateral trade for the mutual benefit of the two countries. The President said that the potential for enhancing trade in the fields of agriculture and agro-products needed to be materialized, adding that maximum facilitation to inves- dr, today. Talking to the Ambas- Central Asia" policy, and tors from Kazakhstan should sador, the President said that enhancing regional connec-enrolled in VU's various virtu-



across Pakistan.

The President expressed esses in the already estab- tance to its ties with Kazakh- nivotal part of Pakistan's policy. President asked the Ambassa-

lished Special Economic Zones stan as both the brotherly countries shared historical and cultural bonds. He further statthese views while talking to ed that Pakistan was commit-Pakistan's Ambassador-des- ted to build sustainable and ignate to Kazakhstan, Mr result-oriented relations with Nauman Bashir Bhatti, who the Central Asian Repubcalled on him, at Aiwan-e-Sa- lic (CARs) under its "Vision be provided to establish their Pakistan attached great importivity with CARs constituted a all education programmes. The

He also stressed the need to keep up the momentum in taking forward regional connectivity initiatives with Kazakhstan, such as Kazakhstan-Turkmenistan-Iran (KTI) railway link. While emphasising the need to enhance people-to-people contacts with Kazakhstan, the President called for increasing cooperation in the field of higher education through joint degrees, and student and faculty exchange programmes. He said that the Virtual University of Pakistan (VU) was offering online education, which was cost-effective and students from Kazakhstan could benefit from it. He added that 8000 foreign students were already

dor-designate to convey his gratitude to the Government and the people of Kazakhstan for their generous assistance to the flood-affected people of

The President asked the Ambassador to highlight the anti-Muslim and anti-minority policies of India, particularly the atrocities and human rights violations being committed by the Indian Occupation Forces against the Muslim population of Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir. He also asked him to work for improving the country's image. The President congratulated Mr Nauman Bashir Bhatti over his appointment as Pakistan's Ambassador-designate to Kazakhstan and urged him to take effective steps for further improving bilateral relations between the two countries

## Pakistan, Uzbekistan sign \$1bln trade agreement at IGC

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: Among other developments, Pakistan and Uzbekistan Friday signed \$1 billion trade agreement at Inter-governmental Commission (IGC), which will encourage exchange of goods and services and will also ease process of trade.

The 8th Session of Pakistan-Uzbekistan Inter-governmental Commission (IGC) on Trade-Economic and Scientific-Technical Cooperation was co-chaired by Minister of Investments, Industry and Trade, Uzbekistan, Laziz Kudratov and by Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar in Uzbekistan, according to press statement received here.

The commission mainly focused on bilateral economic cooperation in various sectors including commerce and trade, banking, industries



The continuous efforts by als. both countries to encourage fields of trade, transport, banking, and agriculture was appreciated by the Uzbek side.

culture development.

On the occasion, Ishaq Dar appreciated the deeper interests by the Uzbek side and strengthening of the rela-through technology, innovaand production, investment, tionship and lauded progress tion, and economic partner-robust regulatory environ-sion next year in Pakistan.

transport, trade and welcomed in automobiles, information technology and natural miner-

Both the sides emphasized closer ties, especially in the that there was huge untapped potential in investment cooperation and bilateral trade. Furthermore, the IGC

recognized the importance of closer collaboration in order to bring sustainable development

Finance Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar during a meeting with the Minister of Investments, Industry and Trade, Uzbekistan, Laziz Kudratov on sidelines of 8th Session of Pakistan-Uzbek-Inter-governmental Commission (IGC) in Uzbekistan on February 24

The IGC aims at increassustainable growth, building supply chain resilience, and

ment.

The Commission expressed satisfaction on the bilateral trade volume between the two countries and desired to enhance it further in the future. Moreover, Uzbekistan showed commitment for enhancing bilateral connectivity through diverse modes.

Among others, the meeting was attended Special Adviser to Prime Minister (SAPM), Tariq Bajwa, SAPM to Finance Minister, Zulfiqar Younus, Federal Secretary Economic Affairs Division, Dr. Kazim Niaz, along with other ministry representatives from Pakistan and from Uzbek side, the session was attended by Minister of Sport and Youth Policy, Hamraev Oybek Nematovich and Chairman Chamber of Commerce of Uzbekistan,

Ikramov Adham Ilhamovich. Both the parties agreed ing economic diversification, to hold the ninth meeting of the Pakistan-Uzbekistan Inter-governmental Commis-

## Ministry reserves 25% quota for Hajj pilgrims depositing dues in dollars

**Staff Reporter** 

Harmony has decided to allocate a 25 percent special quota in the liquidity problem. Government Hajj Scheme for the pilgrims who will deposit dues in

The ministry also decided that the intending pilgrims, depositing dues in dollars, would be exempted from the balloting under the new Hajj policy, official sources said on Friday.

They said about 22,400 pilgrims would benefit from the 'Sponsorship Scheme' being introduced current foreign exchange reserves

submitted through foreign remit- rate on Hajj by 18 to 20 percent.

tances in dollars, the sources added. They said the Ministry of Finance ISLAMABAD: The Ministry of had indicated that it would not be Religious Affairs and Interfaith able to arrange some 2 billion dollars for the Hajj in view of the forex

> The sources said the Religious Ministry had increased the Hajj quota for private operators from 40 percent to 50 percent, which might be further raised in the wake of persistent foreign exchange liquidity crunch.

They said the ministry would charge Rs 1.1 million from each pilgrim under the government scheme, but the Hajj expenses by the ministry in the wake of the might rise to Rs 1.3 million in case of further depreciation of the rupee.

The sources said the Saudi The Hajj expenses could also be Government was increasing the tax

## Two Pakistani nationals released from Guantanamo Bay:FO

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: Two Pakistani nationals Muhammad Ahmad Rabbani and Abdul Rahim Ghulam Rabbani, who were in detention in Guantanamo Bay detention facility, have been released and repatriated to Pakistan on Friday (24 February 2023).

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs added.

coordinated an extensive inter-agency process to facilitate the repatriation of Muhammad Ahmad Rabbani and Abdul Rahim Ghulam Rabbani, Foreign Office said in a statement issued here.

"We are pleased that these Pakistani nationals have finally reunited with their families," the statement

### **ECP restores** membership of five female MNAs of PTI

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) on Friday suspended by-elections on 27 seats of the National Assembly in Lahore High Court (LHC).

According to an ECP notifi elections on 27 general seats would is not applicable to the said constitnot be held till further notice.

Those 27 seats are: NA 57; NA 59; NA 60; NA61; NA 62; NA 63; NA 67; NA 70; NA 87; NA 93; NA 97; NA 107; NA 109; NA 126; NA 130; NA 135; NA150; NA 152; NA155; NA156; NA158; NA164; NA 165; NA 177; NA187, and NA191.

The Election Commission has also restored the membership of by Shafqat Mahmood and others. five female MNAs of PTI who are Aliya Hamza Malik, Kanwal Shuzab, Andleeb Abbas, Asma Hameed cies.

and Maleeka Ali Bokhari in light of LHC orders.

However, by-elections would be held in three constituencies of Islamabad scheduled on March 16.

The federal capital's constituencies compliance with the directives of the NA 52, 53, 54 are located in Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) and the decision of Lahore High Court (IHC) uencies of Islamabad, said the noti-

Earlier, Lahore High Court on February 20 suspended ECP's regarding the de-notification of around 30 MNAs of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) from Punjab.

LHC Justice Shahid Karim issued an interim order on petitions filed suspending the process of by-elections in the petitioners' constituen-

### *USAmbassador* called onDefence Minister



**Example 2** City Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Mr. Donald Blome, United States Ambassador to Pakistan called on Minister for Defence, Khawaja Muhammad Asif here in his office today. Minister for Defence highlighted the successful interaction with US Govt to Govt fora. The areas of mutual interest and bilateral cooperation in the field of defence, energy and infrastructure development came under discussion. Minister for Defence, Khawaia Muhammad Asif highlighted the importance of stable and prosperous Afghanistan for region as a whole and for Pakistan in particular. Minister for Defence also expounded the need for further diversifying defence relations from counter-terrorism to the realms of conventional defence and suggested an enhanced defence cooperation framework having a broader out look. Defence Minister also opined that the world should recognise the role played by Pakistan and its efforts for regional peace and security. Two sides were of the view that national and regional security is an important and common

#### Chairman FBR holds another E-Khuli Kachehri

Sommerce Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Continuing the tradition, Chairman Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) Mr. Asim Ahmad held another E-Khuli Kachehri at FBR HQs on Friday to listen to the issues of taxpayers and provide prompt assistance. The occasion provides a platform to taxpayers to voice their concerns directly to Chairman FBR as well as give suggestions for speedy provision of tax-related services to promote tax compliance across the country.

During the occasion, Chairman FBR directly received telephone calls from taxpayers and listened to their grievances and recommendations. The Chairman gave on-spot directions to relevant offices to resolve issues of the taxpayers at the earliest. He also advised the taxpayers to visit their nearest Regional Tax Office and Collectorate of Customs for resolution of their issues on matters of taxation. Chairman FBR appreciated the suggestions given by some taxpavers and assured them that their valued input would be duly considered while formulating future tax policies and initiatives for taxpayers' facilitation.

He reiterated that FBR was taking all possible measures to facilitate the taxpayers by ensuring timely provision of services. E-Khuli Kachehri by Chairman FBR provides an opportunity to taxpayers to directly communicate with the Chairman for redressal of their grievances and also helps keep a check on the performance of the Field Formations.

#### China to launch two weather satellites this year

#### News Desk

ISLAMABAD: China will launch the Fengyun 3F and Fengyun 3G weather satellites this year, according to the China Meteorological Administration.

The Fengyun 3F is expected to be launched in August. It will focus on making imaging observations of the Earth's surface, which are mainly used for weather forecasting, environmental research and disaster monitoring.

## ATC issues Rana Sanaullah's arrest warrant

News Desk

GUJRANWALA: An anti-terrorism court (ATC) in Gujranwala on Friday issued a bailable arrest warrant for Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah.

The arrest warrants were issued in a case filed at the Industrial police station against the senior PML-N leader in August 2022 on a complaint of PML-Q leader Shahkaz Aslam for issuing life threats to the Punjab chief secretary and his family members.

The Gujranwala ATC dismissed the police report and directed them to present Rana Sanaullah on March 7.



The court also issued show-cause notices to the officers concerned, DSP, and SP investigations and ordered them to appear

On Aug 25, a first information report (FIR) was filed against Interior Minister and PML-N leader Rana Sanaullah under the Anti-Terrorism Act in Gujrat's Industrial Area Police Station.

The FIR was registered on the complaint of common citizen Shahkaz Aslam.

According to the FIR's content, Sanaullah blatantly targeted honorable judiciary and government officials in 2021.

According to the FIR, Sanaullah blatantly targeted honourable judiciary and government officials in 2021.

## HEC is committed to empowering young women through quality education: Dr. Mukhtar

#### 👺 Bureau Report

KARACHI: PINK Pakistan Trust and Higher Education Commission (HEC) Pakistan have entered into a collaboration agreement to create awareness among the students of colleges and universities across the country about the prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of breast cancer. The President of PINK Pakistan Trust, Dr. Zubaida Qazi, along with Chairman HEC Prof. Dr. Mukhtar Ahmed, expressed this while signing the Memorandum of Understanding on Letter of Intent (LoI) at HEC Secretariat Islamabad. She said that the incidence rate of breast cancer in Pakistan is the highest in the Asian region, where one in nine women is at risk of this deadly disease. It is the most common type of cancer in women in Pakistan, where about 40,000 cases of breast cancer are reported annually. Early diagnosis mize its reach amongst youth. Chairand early treatment are key to reduc- man HEC Prof. Dr. Mukhtar Ahmed ing breast cancer mortality. Pink Paki- said, "HEC is committed to empow-



stan and HEC joined forces to promote awareness among college and university students about the symptoms, diagnosis, and treatment of breast cancer. Conferences, seminars, and workshops will be organized in colleges and universities to educate students about breast cancer. A campaign will be launched to create awareness about breast cancer using technology to maxi-

ering young women through quality education, skill development, and health and wellness. Our collaboration with Pink Pakistan Trust aims to promote breast cancer awareness among college and university students. We will work together to provide breast cancer screening services to 1.2 million male and female students studying in 216 universities across the country," he said, adding that the collaboration between Pink Pakistan Trust

of Pakistan will help to improve breast cancer rate in Pakistan. It is a vital step in the fight against cancer. By working together to promote breast cancer awareness and research, we can make a real difference in the lives of individuals and families affected by this deadly disease. HEC and PINK Pakistan will facilitate, support, and fund research projects aimed at medical universities to conduct original and robust research on breast cancer. We are excited to partner with the Higher Education Commission of Pakistan to create awareness about breast cancer among the youth of the country. If we want to save thousands of precious lives every year from this deadly disease, we need to break the surrounding breast

tion Mohammad Faisal Butt, Executive Director HEC Dr. Shaista Sohail, and Higher Education Commission and others were also present.

cancer in society, said Dr. Zubaida Qazi. Vice Chancellor Iqra University Dr. Wasim Qazi, Director General National Academy of Higher Educa-

#### Bohra Food Fest

KARACHI: A woman vendor is displaying food items in his stall during Bohra Food Fest at North Nazimabad area in Pro-



### Women can play an important role in state development: PM



#### 👺 Abdul Majeed Tahir

MUZAFFARABAD: Prime Minister Azad Jammu and Kashmir Sardar Tanveer Ilyas Khan had said that women could play an important role in the construction and development of the state by becoming economically independent. The scope of the Vocational Training Center established in Muzaffarabad should be extended to Sidhnuti, Bagh, Rawalkot and Chakswari. All necessary facilities should be provided in the Muzaffarabad centre and the need for machines should be met by solving the administrative issues. He expressed these views while addressing a video link meeting regarding the successful women's program. In the meeting, Principal Secretary Fayyaz Ali Abbasi, Secretary Education Elementary and Secondary Zahid Khan, Secretary Toyota Muhammad Razak Nadeem, former Secretary Social Welfare Raja Ijaz, Officials including coordinator Zareq Qureshi, special assistant for women's welfare, Laiba, participated.

Now the era is changing Where there are opportunities for education for students, and the same female students are not behind them in this field, but now the female students are performing better than the male students. Women are playing an important role in the field of life, this was the reason why their government has also started a successful women's program to train them in skills. He said that women will be made skilled in stitching, embroidery, weaving and shawl weaving so that they could play an important role in economic development. The Prime Minister said that the present era was only about technology, nations could not develop if they did not equip themselves with modern education over time, so they had to adapt themselves to traditional education over time. The Prime Minister said that technical education was the best source of employment, and all the resources will be used to make Toyota a successful institution in a modern style so that this institution could also provide technical education to unemployed women to provide them with employment opportunities.

#### SUP march against bad governance, inflation, unemployment arrived at Dadu on Friday

#### 😂 Azad Baloch

DADU: Sindh United Party SUP march against bad governance, inflation, unemployment arrived at Dadu city on Friday. Sindh United Party's foot march entered its ten'th day on Friday. SUP's foot march arrived at Dadu city from Sukkur, Shikarpur, Larkana, Mehar, Khairpur Nathan Shah and Khanpur. The protest march led by Syed Zain Shah, Central President of Sindh United Party.

The participants of the protest march spent the last night at Mekhdoom Bilawal and arrived at Khudaabad stop. Flower petals were showered at Khanpur on the beginning of March towards Shaheed Makhdoom Bilawal, to Dadu city. A large number of young people, including children, woman and the elderly, participated in the Sindh March. Today is the ninth day of the long march covering a distance of 33 km, reached at Khudaabad from Mekhdoom Bilawal in Dadu district. Reception camps have been set up in different cities to welcome the Sindh March.

Reception camps have been set up by SUP workers and other political and religious parties. "Reception camps were set up at Mekhdoom stop, Sabzi Mandi, Dua Chonck Jo and other places""said Makhdoom Shamas uddin spokesperson SUP". "March crossed, Mekhdoom bilawal, Dadu after Khudaabad " "said SUP Spokesman".

 $Syed\ Zain\ Shah\ SUP\ president\ speaking\ to\ march\ at\ Dadu\ city, said$ that the aim of the Sindh March is to give rights to the people of Sindh. He said that terrorism was high in country and federal and provincial governments had failed to protect lives of people and properties. He said that since last 15 years, PPP was ruling in Sindh province and has destroyed Sindh. He said that Sindh anti acts were started and steps were being taken to divide Sindh by creating new provinces.

## Showing expected results despite certain shortages is a hard nut to crack: Principal, Rao

#### 腾 Mian Rashid Asghar

FAISALABAD: The Deputy Commissioner Ali Annan Qamar paid a surprise visite at Government MC Boys Higher Secondary School, Kotwali Road and teaching matters in which he expressed his satisfaction over the cleanliness arrangements in the school. He went to the classrooms and reviewed the teaching activall other activities. DC expressed his hope regarding the expecta-

special attention should be given to the training of students with quality and purposeful education.

The Deputy Commissioner met with Muhammad Iqbal Rao, the Principal this school and reviewed the administrative and made it clear that the development and prosperity of the country depends on the efforts of teachers, students and parents coordination.

The principal elaborated that ities and the students. He also the current state of government inquired about the syllabus and schools needs more special attention Whereas the government schools and other governtions of the school administra- ment educational institutions

tion, especially the teachers, that work under a fixed program and system and in this regard the headmasters, principals and other officials are responsible to generate comprehensive momentum. One should fulfill one's responsibilities with heart & soul.

> The school administration further said that it is not possible to run the education system effectively due to the lack of teachers in the educational institutions, so the higher authority should fill this gap in time to expressed adding that the drinking water facilities in most of the

water plants are not available and clean during water especially in summer season, the Provision of cold water is a basic requirement. The school administration further pointed out that the furniture in the schools is not complete and the additional intake of students faces diffi-

It is becoming difficult to run the information technology department because the necessary equipments are not availtake required output. He further able, Principal said and added.

Appreciating the efforts of the school administration, the Depu-



schools are not available. The ty Commissioner said that all the problems faced by the education- al institutions will be solved on priority basis.

## Kashmir women 'mass rape' in Kanan, Pushpura is calculated design of India: activists

#### **Bureau Report**

MIRPUR: The prominent Kashmiri human rights and social activists Miss Maryam Identity has said that Their incident of Kanan and Pushpura is a calculated design of Indian cruelty and brutality. She recalled such kind of collective disgrace has never been witnessed in the world. Kanan. the social life of Pushpura is still affected and ashamed. The people there have not come out of the grip of this Ra from that day till today. This incident has been called mass rape. Kashmiris have Kashmir Women's Resistance Day ri women have been subjected to a new chapter of human rights

by the occupying Indian soldiers and police personnel.

Under the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the Universal Bill of Rights for Women (CEDAW) passed by the United Nations General Assembly, women have basic rights and freedom in every sphere of social. political and life, while the situation in Kashmir is completely opposite. Due to Indian military domination and state terrorism, women are deprived of basic human rights. SHe said that if the Kashmir conflict has taken the been observing this incident as lives of thousands of Kashmiris, countless women have also lost since February 23, 2013. Kashmi- their dignity. In the late 1980s,

the worst human rights violations violations began, which continues until now, and during this time, more than a thousand women have been martyred. From 1989 to 2022, 12 thousand 121 Kashmiri women have been brutalized and raped by Indian forces, 23 thousand 234 have become widows and thousands of women are living as semi-widows whose husbands have disappeared and So far, no information about them has been found. Women in Kashmir are raped and threatened by the occupying Indian security

The pattern of rape in the Occupied Valley is that when soldiers enter civilian residences, they kill or evict the men before raping the women. Many cases go unreport-

ed due to fear of repression, reprisals and stigmatization by the Indian government. Moreover, the black laws implemented by the Indian government in Occupied Kashmir provide protection to the crimes of the occupying forces and this has further increased the pain and suffering of Kashmiris. The killing of an Indian army officer is not an individual crime but is used as a tactic of state terrorism to crush the freedom movement of Kashmiris. Their husbands. brothers and sons are brutally murdered in front of their eyes. Similarly, men are forced to rape their women in front of them. It is a psychological wound through which Kashmiri men and women are subjected to severe torture.



At the 52nd United Nations dents, but also the occupying Commission on Human Rights, Professor William Baker testified that rape in Kashmir was simply a case of undocumented soldiers. It is not a matter of isolated inci-

security forces are using rape as a weapon on the Kashmiri population in a terrifying and active manner. The number of mental stress related patients in 1990

60-70%. has reached, as a result of which 70 out of every 100 women have become psychiatric patients. He said that widows are also carrying the burden of their slain husbands, in the presence

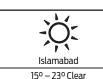
was 10% among the women of

Occupied Kashmir, which is now

of more than eight lakh Indian army for them and their own. It is impossible for children to earn employment. For the last seven decades, Kashmiri women have been making sacrifices for peace and fundamental rights in their homeland. Despite persecution, crackdown, fake encounters, disappearances, atrocities and killings, Kashmiri women are standing with firm determination she added.

..6:00 pm





#### SERVICES **Namaz Timings**

#### .... 7:23 pm **EMERGENCY**

LIMILITOLITE	
Rescue (Police)	15
Bomb Disposal	15
Fire Services Rawalpindi/	
Islamabad112	2 & 16
Emergency Ambulance	1122 &
& Rescue Services 4-	451122
Motorway Police926	56044
Motorway Police92706	01-20

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Sta	ations
Islamabad	9222590
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ENQU	IRI
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CAA	9281092

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CMH	5611111
CIVITI	
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MH	561116
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RGH	9290301-7
Holy Family	9290322-7
PIMS	9261170-79
Polyclinic	9218300-09
Shifa International	4603666

#### DEDARTMENTS

DEPARIMEN	13
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TMA 57	70886
Cantonment Board 927	0151-3
Islamabad Metropolitan	
Corporation 92	09224
Potohar Town 92	09224
Rawal Town 57	773343

#### **COMPLAINTS**

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

#### **COMSTECH** Seeks **Nominations** *forAwards* 2023

#### **Spokesman Report**

ISLAMABAD: COMStions for COMSTECH Awards in nine categories this year. The scientists and researchers who are citizens of, and currently working in OIC member states are eligible to submit nominations for these awards by March 31,

COMSTECH seeks applications for Lifetime Achievement Award in two fields of basic sciences, Physics and Mathematics, and for Excellence in Science & Technology Award that includes, Young Researcher Award, Best Scientific Book Award, Best Patent Award and Best Research Paper Award in biology, chemistry, mathematics, and physics.

COMSTECH recognizes outstanding research work carried out by the scientists working and living in OIC member states through its prestigious awards. Each award carries a certificate, shield of honor and cash prize. The President of Pakistan confers the award to the basic sciences award winners.

# Acute shortage of raw material, medicines, medical equipment in country: Mian Zahid Hussain

#### **55** Tariq Khattak

ISLAMABAD: Chairman of National Business Group Pakistan, President Pakistan Businessmen and Intellectuals Forum, and All Karachi Industrial Alliance, and former provincial minister Mian Zahid Hussain on Friday said the reports of a two to three percent increase in interest rate by State Bank under the demands of IMF are disturbing.

This decision will increase the cost

of doing business, bank defaults will increase, new investments will stop, and many businesses will close down which will increase unemployment, but the fall of the rupee will be somewhat reduced, he said.

Mian Zahid Hussain said that the interest rate is already seventeen percent which has increased the burden on the business community and the further increase will be disastrous for them

Talking to the business community, the veteran business leader said that the public and the business community are already worried about the increase in the prices of oil, gas, electricity, and other commodities and they are not able to bear the burden anymore.

The state of the country has become borrowings, first since 2012 have not been

taken out of necessity but as a precaution-

Due to non-borrowing, the economy of these two countries is continuously stabilizing, while Pakistan's economy is nose-diving due to the accumulation of debts and the lack of required economic reforms.

Now the crisis reached its peak and IMF has linked the debt to reforms. Pakistan has never paid attention to health and education, due to which the country fell into the grip of poverty.

If the import of non-essential food and luxury goods is stopped, it is possible to save four billion dollars, four billion dollars can be saved from the proper use of electricity, and seventeen billion dollars from import substitution of agriculture, energy, and transparency in government purchases. Billions of dollars in savings are possible, but reforms have never been implemented and there is little hope for the future due to the current political

Mian Zahid Hussain said that the government of India has more than 600 billion dollars, while its private sector has more than 400 billion dollars, while the government of Pakistan has only 3 billion

#### Bulgarian Ambassador inaugurates Future World MUN 2023



ISLAMABAD: Future World Model United Nations FWMUN 2023, with the theme "The promotion and protection of human rights in digital age", was inaugurated by Ambassador of the Republic of Bulgaria in PakistanMadam Irena Gancheva at Future World School & College Campus, H-11/4 Islamabad says a press release.

The three-day mega event is the brainchild of the highly motivated students of Future World School & College, H-11/4, Islamabad. The event saw the attendance of several dignitaries, including Founder & CEO The Millennium Education Group Dr. Faisal Mushtaq TI, and Director Communications, Community & Outreach Mrs. Sabina Zakir.

The Opening Ceremony of FWMUN 2023 commenced with a stunning flag parade with National Anthems of both Pakistan and Republic of Bulgaria, followed by impressive artistic performances and a motivational speech by Dr. Faisal Mushtaq TI Founder & CEO The Millennium Education Group, Pakistan.

Ambassador of the Republic of Bulgaria Her Excellency Ms. Irena Gancheva expressed her delight in witnessing the event and emphasized the importance of investing in education for the country's future. She shared her own MUN experiences as a student and how they helped shape her diplomatic career. Ms. Gancheva also highlighted the long-standing friendly and economic cooperation between Bulgaria and Pakistan and the opportunities for the two countries to further strengthen their ties.

The Future World Model United Nations FWMUN 2023 provides a platform for students to come together and find solutions to problems through constructive debate and an exchange of ideas. The event is a mix of cultural diversity and intellectual mindset.

The exclusive FWMUN 2023 conference is a timely reminder that together as a nation, we can overcome any calamity, pandemic or disaster if we stand united. The event marks the beginning of the inspiration for the youth to help shape the world based on justice, solidarity, liberty, and peace for all. It opens opportunities for the students to be truly engaged in the learning process, living their learning experience as young diplomats.

The Future World Model United Nations FWMUN 2023 promises to be a transformative experience for all participants and will play a significant role in sensitizing the international community and maximizing the skills of diplomacy amongst educated youth.

#### CBD Punjab Makes Kalma Chowk Underpass Motorable in Record Time



#### News Desk

ISLAMABAD: Punjab Central Business District Development Authority (PCBDDA) also known as Central Business District Punjab (CBD Punjab), has accomplished a major feat by making both lanes of the Kalma Chowk Underpass motorable in the record time of two and a half months. The underpass, which is the longest in Pakistan, was made functional for traffic in record-breaking and time before the commencement of the PSL 8 Lahore fixture. This project is being commenced with funds generated entirely by CBD Punjab.

Chief Minister Punjab Mr. Syed Mohsin Raza Naqvi, Provincial Minister for Excise, Taxation, Communication and Works Punjab, Mr. Bilal AfzalCommissioner Lahore, Mr. Mohammed Ali Randhawa, COO PCBDDA, Brigadier (R) Mansoor Janjua, Executive Director Technical PCBDDA, Mr. Riaz Hussain, Executive Director Commercial, Mr. Mohammed Omer, Technical team of PCBDDA, staff members of PCBD-DA, NLC and other government officials were present on the occasion.

The technical team of CBD Punjab has worked tirelessly, day and night to make the impossible possible and ensured that the underpass was ready for use. The team's goal was to provide maximum relief to the public and reduce hindrances in the daily commute of the citizens of Lahore, as per the directive of the Chief Minister of Punjab, Syed Mohsin Raza Nagyi.

Speaking on the occasion the COO of CBD Punjab, Brigadier (R) Mansoor Janjua, said "It gives me great pleasure to announce that as per our commitment, both lanes of the underpass are open for traffic before PSL 8 matches in Lahore. We were already committed to the timely completion of the project to provide maximum relief to the citi-

CBD Punjab's achievement of making both lanes of the Kalma Chowk Underpass functional is a testament to its commitment of providing high-quality infrastructure for the public. Mr. Riaz Hussain, Executive Director Technical of CBD Punjab, said that "Our technical team along with our contractor NLC, have done a remarkable job by making Kalma Chowk Underpass functional before the given timeframe. This has been made possible due to their dedication and hard work, and I would like to extend my heartfelt gratitude to each and every member of the team".

## Protest

ISLAMABAD: Residents of Snam Chowk Khana Pull burned tyers and block the road during protest in favor of their demands in Federal Capital

such that the higher authorities are call-

ing loans and extensions in the repayment

period of a loan as a piece of great news. Presently there is a shortage of indus-

trial raw materials, medical equipment,

and medicines due to import restrictions.

stan's exports are alarmingly low. Imports

have always been promoted which has left

Pakistan with a current account deficit of

\$20 billion forcing it to accept humiliat-

India has not borrowed from the IMF

since 1991, and Bangladesh's recent

ing terms from lenders.

Mian Zahid Hussain said that Paki-



### United International Group to promote industry-academia linkages of the industry.

#### Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Chairman of the United International Group (UIG) Mian Shahid on Friday said developing strong industry-academia linkages could play an important role in economic development.

The majority of the business community is following a primitive model of doing business that lacks the required knowledge and research, he

Mian Shahid said this while signing an MOU with Principal Hailey College of Banking and Finance Dr. Mubbsher Munawar Khan in pursuit of the Higher Education Commission's initiative for industry-academia linkages.

He said that the idea of ment is incomplete without enterprises. Their contribu- fails to meet the future needs



industry-academia linkage.

about 3.2 million SMEs are currently operating in Pakistan. The exports of light engineering and high-tech industries are highly dependent on and collaboration between the contributions and performance of SMEs.

national economic develop- 90 percent of private sector below global standards and

tion is about 40 percent of the Mian Shahid said that GDP. They are also the biggest source of employment generation in the country, he added.

He noted that there always has been a lack of enthusiasm the business community and academia. The training SMEs account for almost imparted to workers is often

The curricula taught in our academic institutions are quite

rigid, it is and not modified to suit the needs of different career paths and there is little focus on applied research. This is the reason behind the lack of innovation and creativity which is keeping

us behind as our many products do not meet international standards which undermines the image and credibility of Pakistani enterprises in the international markets.

He said that developing economies like Pakistan need to consider economic reforms and work on sustainable development policies. The reforms should help the economy generate more production with efficient use of resources and in value addition to

## Punjab's Business community to support Sindh schools: Balighur Rehman

#### News Desk

ISLAMABAD: The concerned philanthropists and donors of Punjab by generously donating for providing quality schooling to children from the deprived communities in Sindh are playing an important role in strengthening the cause of national unity.

This was stated by Punjab Governor, Muhammad Balighur Rehman while speaking at a fundraiser organized to collect donations from Lahore's business community for the schooling of 10,000 students from the deprived areas of Sindh.

The Punjab Governor said on the occasion that the government always required the support of noble charities for the provision of quality healthcare services and education to the children of destitute communities in faraway and

underprivileged areas in the country.

He said that genuine charities were able to serve the downtrodden people only after receiving unwavering philanthropic support from noble donors from the business community.

The Governor held out the assurance that the government would fully support the charitable work by non-governmental organizations to enroll the out-ofschool children in the country as the state alone didn't have the resources to fulfill this fundamental obligation as per the constitution.

He suggested that the government education authorities should work in close coordination with the concerned NGOs to ensure quality schooling for every child in the deprived parts of the

Speaking as the guest of honour,

said that the concerned philanthropists and business community in Punjab had always acted as a patron for generously donating to lessening the miseries of the downtrodden communities in Sindh.

Tanveer said that like his late father, noted industrialist SM Muneer, the cause to educate children from the deprived areas of the country was very close to his heart as he would do his best to support this noble charitable drive.

APTMA Patron-in-chief, Dr. Gohar Ejaz, said that the presence of a large number of leading businessmen and industrialists at the fundraiser especially those from the textile industry showed well that they stood fully committed to the cause of enrolling every out-of-school child in the country.

He said the concerned industrialists irrespective of the prevailing economic Punjab Industries Minister, SM Tanveer, crisis and a slowdown in business activ-



ities would continue with their philan- trialists to pay back to the country that thropic activities for the uplift of the deprived communities.

He said that unwavering philanthropy was the only noble way for the indus-

enabled them to earn name and fame in the business sector.

Dr. Ejaz said the concerned community of businessmen and industrialists

in Lahore was always available to host more such events to support the drive to educate students from lesser privileged areas of the Sindh. CEO of non-profit Green Cresent

Trust (GCT), Zahid Saeed, said that his non-profit had established 160 charitable schools having an enrollment of over 30,000 children from needy families in Sindh

He said the support his non-profit had received from concerned businessmen in Lahore made him optimistic about enrolling hundreds of thousands of out-of-school children in Sindh under a joint effort by the government and concerned charities.

He said the GCT was well on track to increase the number of its charitable schools in Sindh to 250 with an enrollment of a total of 100,000 students from deprived areas till 2025.

## Editorial/Opinion

Saturday, February 25, 2023

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## Pak -China step up cooperation on modern agricultural technology

n a move to promote China-Pakistan modern agricultural cooperation, a framework agreement on Belt and Road agricultural cooperation was signed at the China-Pakistan Symposium on Modern Agriculture Cooperation held last week at Northwest A&F University, China.

The agreement was signed by the Northwest A&F University, China National Machinery Industry Corporation (SINOMACH), and the Office of Foreign Affairs Commission, Shaanxi Provincial Party Committee.

The three sides agreed to work together in promoting international agricultural technology cooperation under the Belt and Road Initiative, training agricultural talents, building overseas agricultural parks and enhancing agricultural industrial chain of BRI countries.

Professor Zhang Lixin from Northwest A&F University told China Economic Net (CEN) on Friday that to facilitate agricultural technology transfer, the university would establish a mechanism for expert exchange with agricultural universities and research institutes in BRI countries.

A resource-sharing platform was proposed at the symposium to share and promote success models. The cooperation on agricultural industrial chain will also be stepped up. Projects including agricultural mechanization, deep processing of food, cross-border agricultural trade, agricultural warehousing, international logistics and overseas agricultural parks will be promoted via Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Demonstration Base for Agricultural Technology Exchange, Yangling Area of China (Shaanxi) Pilot Free Trade Zone and Yangling Comprehensive Bond-

To support the above efforts, new scholarship programmes are in pipeline to train agricultural talents. The overseas agricultural project bases under SINOMACH, including those in Pakistan, will offer opportunities to local students and researchers for study, internship, employment, and entrepreneurship.

The university is also launching new research projects jointly with Pakistani partners. "We are going to cultivate green chillies in Pakistan, particularly in Sindh and Punjab", Abdul Ghaffar Shar, a doctoral candidate of Northwest A&F University who has been studying in China for nine years told CEN.

"I brought from China linseed back to Pakistan last month. It is a variety most Pakistani farmers are not familiar with but can produce much needed edible oil in the country. Experiment has started at Sindh Agricultural University, Tandojam", he added.

He said that delegations from Habib Bank Limited (HBL) and People's Bank of China (PBOC) Xi'an Branch also attended the symposium to concentrate on ways to facilitate Pakistani farmers to use China's high-yielding va-

# Better hygiene at schools - a gigantic task

#### Hussna Khattak

etter hygiene at educational institutions is as important as education itself to create healthy minds and well-equipped nations and establish countries on sound technical, scientific, cultural and economic footing.

The schools are not only expected to impart better education to children but also better hygiene to fulfill the undeniable right of every child to get proper education in a clean and healthy environment.

Therefore, keeping in view the importance of hygiene facilities in educational institutions, the Federal Government is all-set to launch "Oral Hygiene Program" at 423 public sector schools and colleges functioning under the Federal Directorate of Education (FDE).

Under this Program, the federal government through the Ministry of Federal Education and Professional Training would distribute 'Hygiene Kits' among the students of the government educational institutions within Islamabad Capital Territory jurisdiction.

Doctors would be engaged to guide students on the use of these kits consisting of tools for teeth cleanliness and soap and sanitizers

"Hygiene Kits distribution program will be launched in April 2023 with the distribution of as many as 100,000 kits among the students," said Director Academics Federal Directorate of Education Riffat

"The government will hire doctors to execute this program who will guide students about cleanliness and check their health conditions. If any student is found suffering from any disease, he or she will be referred to the hospital for a detailed check-up," she informed.

She said facilities like dispensers for clean drinking water, liquid or soap for hand washing after the use of toilets are already being provided at each government school and college of Islamabad. "Students are also guided about cleanliness, taking bath regularly, washing hands, brushing their teeth and ablution for prayer etc."

Riffat Jabeen said that some private organizations are also engaged with FDE to provide missing facilities at schools especially clean drinking water and Pakistan Council for Research in Water Resources (PCRWR) played an important role in this regard.

Despite her claims, there are complaints of missing facilities at schools, especially for female students as poor cleanliness and substandard food supplied by canteens inside the school premises and private vendors outside, was proving to be hazardous for the students' health.

In many cases, there is also a deficiency of bathrooms as compared to the number of students with many needing immediate repair and up-gradation as Director Monitoring FDE Malik Sohail assured to provide missing facilities.

"We are on way to bridge this gap and

missing facilities are being ensured for all targets of better cleanliness and hygiene, such institutions," Sohail said.

Principal Islamabad Model College for Boys F-6/2 Ali Ahmad Kharal has informed that Prime Minister's Education Reforms Program worth Rs four billion was launched for betterment of ICT Schools and Colleges especially in rural areas.

Out of this amount, around Rs three billion were used for renovation and provision of missing facilities at the public sector educational institutions of Islamabad with Rs 500 million utilized to improve transportation facility by purchasing 200 new buses.

The remaining Rs 500 million were reserved for new curriculum.

It is worth mentioning that Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif in 2017 had launched Educational Reforms Program for upgrading facilities at 423 schools and colleges in the Federal Capital.

Under this Program the facilities of science and IT labs, classrooms, libraries, sports and play areas were upgraded at some 21 educational institutions during the first month while remaining were upgraded in next 10 months.

"Hygiene conditions are far better now than the past years especially at institutions where the Principal and staff are active," Ali Ahmed Kharal said. "During last two years massive tree plantation was also carried out at the government schools and college to ensure cleaner environment."

As the efforts are on to achieve the nation between concerned departments.

in some cases the shortage of staff and funds is also reported.

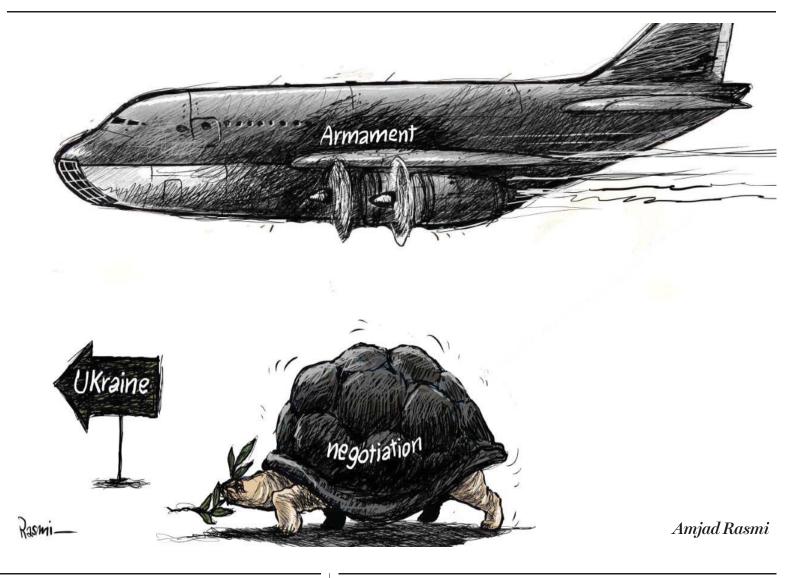
"At some institutions there is shortage of sanitary staff and a requisition has been forwarded for induction of more sweepers and sanitary workers to overcome the shortage," informed President Federal Government Teachers Association Malik Ameer Ahmad Khan.

He further said that under the government's Deworming Program at ICT schools and colleges, the children are being provided tablets regularly to safeguard them from different diseases.

"We are fully alive to better health of our children and the Association has formed a committee for identifying missing facilities at government schools and ensure their earliest provision," Malik Ameer Khan said.

Although the government has initiated multiple measures to promote better hygiene at educational institutions vet there are still challenges like inadequate attention to hygiene concepts in the curricula, un-conducive environment, teachers' and parents' carelessness toward students hygiene and communication gap among them besides poor coordination between health and education departments.

Therefore, the authorities must adopt a holistic approach with the involvement of all stakeholders to promote hygiene by revising curriculum and raising awareness among teachers, parents and students on the issue besides ensuring a strong coordi-



## Balahisar Fort: An icon of South Asian history

#### Waseem Khokhar

eing one of the oldest living cities of South Asia, Peshawar always bore strategic credentials due to its geographical location and a source of attraction for invaders to establish and strengthen their dynasties.

With a history of over 2,500 years, the city was considered a gateway to the subcontinent and of pivotal importance for all kings, monarchs, warriors and invaders who ruled this region.

Therefore, these rulers constructed forts across the sub-continent as their power strongholds for the safety of their people and to safeguard them against external aggression including the mighty Balahisar Fort.

Situated opposite Jinnah Park (old Cunningham Park) on main GT Road, Balahisar spreads over an area of 15.4 acres and is built of red bricks

with 92 feet in height. It reminds the visitors of the rulers of various dynasties who stayed here before marching to the subcontinent to gain geopolitical strength and trade advantages from the rich lands of the

subcontinent. "In the past, most of the invaders and warriors including Afghans Muslim rulers, Mughals, Sikhs and British used to first conquer Balahisar fort before proceedings to Punjab and other parts of the subcontinent," said Bakhtzada Khan, senior research officer, KP archaeology and museums department.

"Recent excavations at Gor-Kathri Peshawar have ascertained city's history dating back to 2,500 years," he said.

"But, discussing this history was incomplete without mentioning the historic fort of Balahisar. It seemed to be as old as the city of Peshawar itself." The old main entrance of Balahisar direct-

ly faces the GT road that links Peshawar with

Afghanistan and Central Asia on the west. and extends towards Pushkalavati (Charsadda) in the North and Hund and Taxila on the East.

Several branches of the past Bara River used to flow through interior Peshawar with one among them probably near the Balahisar Fort.

Renowned historian, Dr A.H. Dani in his book "Peshawar-Historic City of Frontier (now Khyber Pakhtunkhwa)" wrote that when Hiuen Tsang, a Chinese traveller, had visited Peshawar in 630 AD, he spoke of a "royal residence" i.e Balahisar.

According to Dr Dani, a channel of old Bara River surrounded by a high spot perhaps comprised Balahisar and Inder Shahr and the present elevated Balahisar could have been the citadel. The Chinese word "Kung Shing" is used for its significance and is explained as the fortified or walled portion of a town where the royal palaces used to be situated.

This shows that the royal residence formed the nucleus of a Citadel, which must have been further protected by a moat.

In 11th century AD, Raja Jaipal, a ruler of the Hindushahi dynasty was defeated in Peshawar's vicinity and commander Mehmud Ghaznavi had garrisoned the fort with his army.

"There were different opinions about the origin of the fort but mostly Mughals were believed to be the architects of present Balahisar," Bakhtza-

According to renowned historian Abul Fazl, Balahisar was redesigned and built by Mughal emperor Zaheeruddin Babar in 1526. However, after overthrowing emperor Humayun by Shershah Suri, the Afghans destroyed the fort.

"When he was staying in it, Hamyun decided to rebuild the fort to use it for his conquest of India at a later stage and himself supervised its rebuilding," he said. Balahisar was also used by Hari Singh Nalwa as a royal residence for Maha-

raja Ranjeet Singh during Sikh rule. "The Afghan Durrani rulers used it as their

winter camp in early 19th century and named it "Balahisar" a Persian name, meaning high fort," Bakhtzada said.

"Later on, Sikhs renamed it as Samargarh in 1834 but the name remained unpopular."

Balahisar remained a key settlement for successive rulers and witnessed the rules of Hindu Maharajas, Ghauris, Ghazanvis, Tughlags, Mughals and Sikhs. The fort also remained the residence of the Afghan king, Ahmed Shah Durrani and his son Taimur Shah Durrani.

However, after death of the latter in 1793 AD. the Durrani rule weakened and Sikhs captured Peshawar and Balahisar in 1834 after the battle of Nowshera.

Firstly, the Sikhs destroyed a major portion of the fort but later regretted it and Sher Singh, on orders of his father Ranjeet Singh, erected the fort with unbaked bricks.

On entrance of the main courtyard of Balahisar, a Sikh period inscription can be seen at the arch gate. This is the only inscription available today in Balahisar, which reads, "Victory to Porak. This was built by Raja Bikramajit and was named Samir or Samar Garh."

At the time of Sikh Shahi annexation to British rulers in 1849. Balahisar had mud walls.

The British replaced its structure with red bricks in its present shape and kept troops in Balahisar till the cantonment was laid out in Peshawar.

"When the Afridi tribesmen launched a massive attack on Peshawar city in 1930 in a bid to overthrow colonial rulers, the fire of British artillery dispersed them from Balahisar," Bakhza-

The architectural wonder has always been the centre of attraction for local and foreign tourists and visiting dignitaries presenting a rare view of

its huge battlements and architectural designs. Balahisar also has an honour of hoisting the national flag on August 14, 1947 and later served as Frontier Corps (FC) headquarters.

## **Pak-China wheat collaboration** to ensure grain safety

#### Spokesman Research

rof Zhao Changping, Chief Scientist of Hybrid Wheat Research Institute, Beijing Academy of Agriculture and Forestry Sciences said that a group of Chinese wheat experts was working diligently and quietly with Pakistani scientists on hybrid wheat cooperation to increase wheat production in Pakistan.

Hybrid wheat is considered to be the first choice to solve the food crisis in the international agricultural science community, he said in an exclusive interview with China Economic Net (CEN) on Friday.

Prof Zhao said when it comes to China-Pakistan hybrid wheat cooperation, the selection and breeding of hybrid wheat varieties suitable for the local environment requires the cooperation of both parties. Therefore, we have established test stations in Peshawar, Lahore and Yuanmou in Yunnan Province, which is very similar to Pakistan's local climate, he told.

It is learned that so far, the Chinese team's hybrid wheat demonstration fields in Pakistan have been maintained at about 3,000-5,000 hectares, "From Peshawar and Islamabad in the north, Lahore in the center to Karachi in the south, our hybrid wheat has performed well in all the major producing regions", emphasized Zhao.

"The emergene of new varieties has given us momentum as we solve the two main problems, yield and disease resistance," added Prof Zhang Shengquan, Deputy Director of the Hybrid Wheat Research Institute of BAAFS, "In 2019, after nearly ten years of cooperation, the selected hybrid wheat combinations, such as the new variety BH1683, have increased by more than 20 percent in Pakistan for three consecutive years, and Peshawar. In addition, in the joint experi- large-scale application in all continents."

ment between China and Pakistan, even if the sowing amount was reduced by 80-90 percent, BH1683 still has the potential to increase yield by 20 percent. After the introduction of the dominant genes of Chinese wheat, its disease resistance is also more advantageous than that of local

Several Pakistani scientists who have been in contact with me for a long time, such as Dr. Muhammad Arif, Department of Agronomy UAP, have mentioned that wheat production in Pakistan has encountered unprecedented challenges. For instance, last year's rare high temperature once again tested Pakistan's traditional wheat varieties, which has also deepened the understanding of China and Pakistan on the cultivation and application of wheat hybrids to ensure food security. At present, our pace of cooperation is accelerating, and is moving towards the direction of joint research to global food security," Prof Zhang said

"We are working closely with the university of Agriculture, Peshawar and GUARD Agricultural Research & Services Private Ltd. In addition, the Ministry of Science and Technology of Pakistan, in addition, the Ministry of Science and Technology of Pakistan, the Pakistan Agricultural Research Council, and the Chinese Embassy in Pakistan have also support us as far as they could."

At the end of the interview, Professor Zhao noted that this year marks not only the 10th anniversary of the Belt and Road Initiative, but also happens to be the 10th anniversary of China's hybrid wheat going global. "China-Pakistan hybrid wheat cooperation is a model of hightech agriculture going international, and a sign of China-Pakistan friendship. It is our incontrovertible mission as agricultural practitioners to develop hybrid wheat to benefit the people of Pakistan and the whole world. I predict that by and can be widely used in the wheat regions in around 2030, not only Pakistan, not only South central and northern Pakistan, including Lahore Asia, our hybrid wheat will enter the stage of

#### Peace Formula of the President Of Ukraine:

## Seeking peace for Ukraine and for the world

resident Zelenskyy's Peace Formula aims to deprive Russia of ability to commit the crime of aggression against Ukraine, to ensure safety and justice for the global community.

Almost a year ago, Russia started its unprovoked and unjustified war of aggression against Ukraine. The fact that this aggression is illegal under international law is beyond any doubt.141 countries of the world have recognized it by adopting a UN General Assembly Resolution of 2 March 2022 "Aggression against Ukraine", which established that the Russian aggression against Ukraine is in violation of Article 2(4) of the UN Charter and other rules of international law.

The repercussions of Russian war against Ukraine are being painfully felt around the world, especially by the hardest-hit developing countries.

Russia denies legitimacy of Ukraine as a sovereign state, seeks to destroy Ukrainian statehood, wages a highly intensive war on the Ukrainian territory, attacks residential areas and critical civilian infrastructure, especially of energy generation and energy distribution sectors.

Ukrainians hate the war and dream to restore peace. But not at any price. The peace will come after Ukraine territorial integrity has been fully reinstated within the internationally recognized borders. Idea of considering "new territorial realities" declared by Moscow is unacceptable.

The Ukrainian army have already liberated almost half of the territory seized by invaders at the first stage of the war. Russia in its turn has not achieved any strategic goal of his bloody war against Ukraine. It becomes increasingly clear that Russia has lost its aggressive war in terms of

Despite the calls for negotiations emanating from many world capitals, the Russia has shown no intention of stopping its all-out invasion Ukraine requires decisive and pro-active actions, not bare declarations.

The time to sit down at the negotiating table will come sooner or later.

On 15 November 2022, during the G20 Summit in Indonesia, President of Ukraine Volodymyr Zelenskyy presented a peace initiative called the Peace Formula. The Initiative aims not only to put the end to Russia's war of aggression and bring peace to Ukraine, butal order.

#### ing 10 points:

Radiation and nuclear safety. troops, taking hostages their personnel, and ending withscaremongering with blackmail on a global scale. nuclear war by Russian leadership.



H. E. Mr. Markiian Chuchuk Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Ukraine to Islamic Republic of Pakistan

tion must be guaranteed.

#### **Food Security**

Russia's aggression against Ukraine is the only reason for the current global food crisis that badly affected all developing countries. The food security of the world has been endangered as traditional logistic chains disrupted, Ukrainian sea ports - blockaded, millions of acres of Ukrainian farmlands turned into minefields.

Even in war conditions, Ukraine of Ukraine. Thus, restoring peace in managed to retain its position in the world's top 5 agricultural exporters, thus remaining are liable guarantor of global food security. Since the beginning of the war, Ukraine exported more than 40 mln tons of grains, oilseeds and processed products to provide food for hundreds of millions of people across the globe, including Pakistan under the Black Sea Grain Corridor

and "Grain from Ukraine" initiatives. The ensuring of freedom of navigain its global dimension - is aimed at tion in the Black and Azov seas is vital restoring respect for the UN Char- to guarantee further successful and ter and the rules-based internation- smooth implementation of the above said initiatives.

Energy Securit price situation for energy resources and Russian invasion of Ukraine posed electricity. For the first time in human of all children to Ukraine, release of all hitherto unprecedent threats in the history, Russia has been using cold as spheres of nuclear security. Starting a weapon, targeting Ukrainian energy from occupying Chernobyl and Zapor- and heat infrastructure in the winter izhzhya Nuclear Plants by Russian period, as well as, using its energy resources as a leverage of geopolitical

Ukraine's energy system survived

nuclear weapons by Russian Federa- Russia's missile terror and the use of Iranian drones, nearly 50% of Ukraine's energy grid has been damaged. Millions of Ukrainians left without heating, water and electricity in the

Implementing the Peace Formula will make it impossible for Russia to attack critical infrastructure of Ukraine, as well as will facilitate restoration of Ukraine's energy infrastructure through provision of internationassistance.

Release of all prisoners and deported persons. So far, Ukraine has freed 1,762 people from Russian captivity. Russia still is keeping thousands of Ukrainian prisoners of war and civilians in terrible conditions. They are subjected to torture and other forms of inhumane treatment. Almost 3 million people from Ukraine, including minors, were forcibly relocated to Russia, including its most remote regions. They are forced to go through a system of filtration camps.

The Peace formula envisages release Ukrainian prisoners of war and civil-Ukraine negatively affected the world ians held by Russia, returning civil- Ukraine within its internationally 10 years. ians forcibly deported to Russia, first Ukrainian political prisoners, who are held in Russia as well as in the temporarily occupied territories of Ukraine, in particular in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea.

Împlementation of the UN Charter and restoration of Ukraine's territori-All kinds of Russian nuclear black- numerous massive missile and drone al integrity and the world order. The hostages and human shield; commit

principles of non-use of force or the conscription and kidnapping; attack threat of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of states has been challenged by Russia's aggression against Ukraine. Restoration of universal respect for the UN Charter is possible only by restoring the territorial integrity of Ukraine within its internationally recognized borders as well as strict implementation of the UN Charter. Restoration of rules-based world order meets national interests of most states as it implies stigmatization of crime of aggression as well as domination of the small states by big ones

Withdrawal of Russian troops and cessation of hostilities. Ukraine's goal in war with Russia is complete liberation of its territory from the aggressor's army. Ukrainian defenders liberated nearly half of the territory seized by Russia since the beginning of the full-scale invasion but still 20 percent of it remains under Russian occupation. Cessation of hostilities and achieving sustainable peace in Ukraine are of Ukrainian captives held by Russia on possible only after complete withdrawitary formations from the territory of recognized borders.

in international relations.

#### **Restoration of justice**

impossible without restoring justice. Russian troops grossly violate the norms of international humanitarian law and human rights in Ukraine: wage deliberate and indiscriminate attacks on civilians; use them as mail must be stopped and non-use of attacks by Russia. As a result of the world order, based on fundamental executions and rapes; practice forceful of ecosystems and physical destruction such opportunity.

medical personnel and facilities; use banned weapons etc.

Since 24 February 2022 Ukrainian law enforcement agencies have launched an investigation into 68,670 war crimes and crimes of aggression

committed by Russian occupants. All perpetrators of war crimes should be brought to justice. Restoration of justice is a prerequisite of preventing repetition of similar war crimes in future by powers that may harbour neo-imperial or revanchist

Establishing a Special Tribunal for the crime of aggression against Ukraine is a viable way to hold Russian military and political leadership accountable.

Since the beginning of Russian invasion Ukrainian law enforcement agencies have registered damage or destruction of 77,463 civilian infrastructure facilities, including 58,943 residential buildings, 2,276 educational and 436 medical institutions, 3,918 water and electricity networks. According to dinated by one or two country-leadthe World Bank, The cost of Ukraine's ers. Permanent participants (Ukraine, "all for all" basis, ensuring the rights of al of all Russia's troops and quasi-mil-reconstruction and recoveryis estimat-the USA, the EU and the UN) will ed about 700 bln USD over the next

> Four key sources of financing should be the following: confiscated Russian Restoration peace in Ukraine is actives, allocations from Ukrainian state budget, funds of international partners, and donor donations from around the world. **Ecological safety.**

> > Russia's invasion of Ukraine caused large-scale environmental damage: unprecedented pollution, disruption

of biological species. Environmental damage to Ukraine caused by Russia's war is estimated at more than 46 bln USD. Ukraine's ecosystems will need decades to recover (reclamation and demining, revival of destroyed forests and nature reserves, cleaning of rivers, lakes and marine waters, etc.).

Preventing escalation of war and repetition of aggression. Kremlin's efforts to strengthen Russia's military machine will remain a formidable military threat to its neighbors, entire Europe, in the coming years, if not defeat it on the battlefield in Ukraine now. That is why Ukraine's victory is critical to European and global security. The risk of a new escalation by Russia will persist until the security of Ukraine is guaranteed in a legally binding way, its own defence capabilities reinforced and the country incorporated into international security architecture.

Ukraine suggests implementing the legally binding security guarantees through the "Kyiv Security Compact" aimed at mobilizing political, financial, military, and diplomatic resources for Ukraine's self-defence to deter an external aggression and to protect sovereignty and territorial integrity if such aggression takes place.

Confirmation of the end of the war. After the implementation of above-mentioned steps, the parties to the war conflict and the guarantor parties will sign a comprehensive international legal document on the end of the Russian-Ukrainian war. The document will resolve such issues as restoration of sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine in internationally recognized borders, re-establishment of sustainable and just peace, as well as long-term security of Ukraine.

Implemented one by one or simultaneously, these points of the Peace formula will help to restore peace and security not just for Ukraine, but the whole world.

In order to ensure wide international support of the Peace Formula, on February 23, 2023, the UN General Assembly resolution "Establishing a comprehensive, just and lasting peace in Ukraine" will be adopted. The resolution will support the Peace Formula as a whole as well as will grant the mandate to the UN Secretary General to get actively involved in its imple-

The Peace formula initiative envisages the maximum involvement of the international community and is open to the participation of all interested states. Each of its 10 points will be cooralso be involved in the implementation of every pillar, alongside with other stakeholders on voluntary basis. Every peace-loving nation can play its own role in implementing of the Peace Formula to demonstrate leadership in bringing peace closer.

As a respected and responsible member of the world community, Pakistan could contribute to the implementation of the Peace Formula too.

I invite the Pakistani side to consider

#### A year of courage against invaders

## Timeline of the war in Ukraine & migration crisis



Maveed Ahmad Khan

he Ambassador of the Republic of Poland, Maciej Pisarski accompanied by the Ambassador of Ukraine, Markiian Chuchuk, and the Ambassador of the European Union, Dr. Riina Kionka addressing a joint event

Embassy of Poland, commemorating the first year of its resistance to the Russian invasion.

The event was attended by a large number of diplomats to show solidarity with Ukraine. Media and human rights activists were also present on the occasion. The ambassadors of Poland, the European Union, and Ukraine delivered their speeches. The

The Embassy of Ukraine, with the support of the Polish Embassy, also presented a photo exhibition depicting the atrocities of Russian military actions.

The event aimed to raise awareness of the war in Ukraine. It was linked with the achievements of Polish-Ukrainian relationships. Since the beginning of solidarity with Ukraine in the main motive was solidarity with of the Russian invasion on 24

Ukraine fighting for freedom. February 2022, Poland has received the greatest number of migrants from Ukraine. More than 3.8 million people from all over Ukraine crossed the Ukrainian-Polish border, and 1.1 million registered for temporary protection in Poland, most of them women and children. More than 1.9 million of the Ukrainian migrants, especially those from the western and central parts of



Photos by Ghulam Farid

27% of the Ukrainians declare they will stay in Poland even if the war ends.

This unprecedented migration crisis has been managed jointly by Poland's non-governmental organizations, society, and the state. The NGOs have created an extensive system of assistance (humanitarian aid at the border, accommodation placement, childcare, etc.). About half of the migrants found free accommodation in the homes of Poles or Ukrainians living in Poland. Two weeks after the start Russo-Ukrainian war, the Polish parliament adopted a special law

social assistance on the same terms as Polish citizens.

Ukrainian refugees who decide to stay in Poland might Republic of Poland only. Polish not be covered by social aid programs after a certain point, either by civil acknowledgbut they will be able to contribute to the development of their new homeland—including participating actively in Polish politics. Some European countries, like Sweden, already allow non-EU migrants who live there to take part in local elections. According to the 1990 Polish law on local self-government, a local self-govof the escalated invasion of the erning community is formed by er. If the current political situaall its inhabitants. This should include foreigners living there that gives Ukrainian migrants as well—in this case, the Ukraithe right to work as well as free nians. As for parliamentary and into Polish society.

back home; meanwhile, some tion. They may also benefit from ation is more complicated, as according to the 1997 constitution MPs and the head of state are elected by the citizens of the citizenship can be obtained ment—with foreigners needing to meet several criteria, including several years' residence in Poland and knowledge of the Polish language—or through a decision of the Polish president to grant citizenship. In the latter case, the president is not limited by any conditions and may grant Polish citizenship to any foreigntion allows it, this could be the easiest way to fully integrate new Ukrainian permanent residents

Saturday, February 25, 2023



index Fluctuation			
Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index			
Current	Prev. Close		
40,707.76	40,838.51		
Day's High	Day's Low:		
40,978.46	40,682.46		
Index Value	Change		
4,226,465,574	-130.75		
Percentage	Time		
-0.32%	24 Feb, 2023		
	5:00 pm		
Europe: FTS	Europe: FTSE 100 Index		
Index Value	Change		
7,878.66	-29.06		
Percentage	Time		
-0.37%	24 Feb, 4:35 pm GMT		
<b>USA: Dow Jones I</b>	ndustrial Average		
Index Value	Change		
32,735.36	-418.55		
Percentage	Time		
-1.26%	24 Feb, 12:50 pm GMT-5		
Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average			
Index Value	Change		
27,453.48	+349.16		

#### **Open Market Forex Rates**

**Time** 24 Feb, 3:15 pm

GMT+9

**Percentage** 

+1.29%

Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	182	184.4
Bahrain Dinar	693.87	701.87
Canadian Dollar	194	196.2
China Yuan	38.28	38.68
Danish Krone	37.09	37.49
Euro	275.90	278.65
Hong Kong Dollar	33.45	33.8
Indian Rupee	3.16	3.27
Japanese Yen	2.06	2.11
Kuwaiti Dinar	850.18	859.18
Malaysian Ringgit	59.33	59.93
NewZealand \$	163.68	165.68
Norwegians Krone	25.78	26.08
Omani Riyal	677.48	685.48
Qatari Riyal	71.89	72.59
Saudi Riyal	69.35	70.05
Singapore Dollar	194	196
Swedish Korona	25.32	25.62
Swiss Franc	279.18	281.68
Thai Bhat	7.61	7.76
U.A.E Dirham	71.50	72.22
UK Pound Sterling	313.25	316.38
US Dollar	266.8	269.5

#### Ericsson named the leader in ABI Research sustainability assessment

#### **Spokesman Report**

KARACHI: Ericsson has been named the overall sustainability leader in a study conducted by ABI Research that evaluated the capabilities of telecom vendors to reduce energy use and waste across the

ABI ranked more than 80 telco vendors and suppliers based on the two key areas of implementation and impact. The assessment provided a matrixed view of the ecosystem of companies that can best support service providers in their drive toward improved sustainability.

Ericsson led the assessment overall for implementation - ranking highest for sustainable networks and business, and number one in the main RAN (radio access network) categories, including Massive MIMO, 5G RAN, AI-driven software, and antenna solutions, according to ABI's "Sustainability Assessment: Telco Technology Suppliers" research report.

In terms of impact, Ericsson also topped the list among vendors for its Net Zero emission targets. The company is determined to halve its value-chain emissions by 2030 and reach Net Zero by 2040. Ericsson has also committed to become Net Zero in its own activities by 2030.

Kim Arrington Johnson, principal analyst at ABI Research says: "In the sustainability assessment, Ericsson received strong scores for innovation and sustainable impact, due to the close co-design of Ericsson Silicon with hardware and software playing a crucial role in creating high-performing, lightweight, and energy-efficient products. Ericsson designs and builds RAN hardware equipment with sustainability in mind."

Freddie Södergren, Head of Technology and Strategy, Ericsson Networks, says: We started our sustainability journey at Ericsson many years ago with a strong focus on supporting our customers. We have been closely working with them in recent years to achieve their energy and sustainability targets. Energy performance and achieving Net Zero targets are key pillars of Ericsson's overall company and technology strategies.

# ICCI to set up Facilitation Centre for PM's Youth Program Beneficiaries

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) would set up a Facilitation Centre for the mentorship of Prime Minister's Youth Loan Scheme beneficiaries of the Capital and its surrounding areas. This was said by Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, President, ICCI during an interaction with Ms. Shaza Fatima Khawaja, Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Youth Affairs during Cheque Distribution Ceremony of Prime Minister's Youth Business & Agriculture Loan Scheme held at PM House.

Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari said that youth is the future of Pakistan and is blessed with lot of potential and talent. He said that it is very important to focus on youth development and empower them so that our youngsters could utilize their talent and abilities for making Pakistan a strong economy of the region. He appreciated the government for launching several initiatives under the Prime Minister's Youth Program including the Youth Business



and Agriculture Loan Scheme to empower the youth of urban and rural areas. He said that ICCI would mentor the beneficiaries of this program to enable them to start their own businesses and play an effective role in the economic development of the country.

support of its beneficiaries to help them start um enterprises. their own businesses.

Rs.30 billion among about 40,000 young of PMYP.

ICCI has already signed an MoU with PM's entrepreneurs till June 2023. Half of these Youth Program to cooperate in mentorship and will be the business loans for small and medi-

Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif had distrib-PM's Youth Program is scheduled to disburse uted cheques among the successful applicants

## SECP holds thematic workshop on digitalization program

#### **Example 2** Commerce Reporter

ISLAMABAD: The Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) held a thematic workshop to demonstrate the prototype of re-designed digital regulatory processes for Limited Liability Partnership (LLP), company registration and filing, and compliance.

Under its digitalization program, "Leading Efficiency through Automation Prowess (LEAP)," the SECP has identified key business processes that need to be reviewed, documented, re-engineered, and automated.

The second thematic workshop was organized in collaboration with technology implementation partner Techlogix Pakistan and project consultants Ernst & Young (EY). In the interactive and consultative workshop, the second in the series, participants from the corporate sector and other regulated entities shared their feedback on prototype of redesigned automat-

Ûzma Khan, the LEAP program manager from the SECP, discussed the impact of digital developments and integration of systems on the customer experience. She discussed the "SECP Digital Transformation Program (LEAP) initiatives like digital & IT strategies, business process re-engineering, automation of re-engineered



& Internal workflows), XBRL and Security Operations Centre (SOC). She emphasized the importance of digital-first approaches to improve, digitize and automate external interactions and internal processes.

Experts from EYFR Pakistan explained the significant pain points identified as a result of LLP Registration, Filing & Compliance business process re-engineeringin. He proposed a redesigned payment mechanism to reduce high experts, and SECP officials.

business processes (Company Registration error rate and provide multiple modes of payments to end users. Techlogix Pakistan representative explained the prototype and included user registration, process filing method, availability of company/ user profile, documents access, payment options, and acknowledgement of deci-

> The workshop was attended by a large number of stakeholders from the business/ legal community, information technology

### **TCL Ranked Global** Top 2 TV Brand **According to OMDIA**

#### Spokesman Report

research firm.

LAHORE: TCL, one of the global TV industry and a leading consumer electronics brand, announces its latest ranking of Global Top 2 TV Brand according to OMDIA's Global TV sets report 2022, the data of which also suggests that TCL large size TVs have received significant growing momentum over the past year and remained No.1 in global 98-inch TV market share.

TCL has been the pioneer in Mini LED TVs and started off 2023 by exhibiting its latest display and smart innovations at CES 2023. TCL was also honored to have won two CES® 2023 Innovation Awards for its TCL Mini LED 4K TV C935 and C835. Previously, TCL was ranked first as the No.1 Android OS Smart TV brand in 2021 with a steady market OMDIA - a leading market 2022.

In 2023, TCL's new Mini LED Series will be available the dominant players in in XL screen sizes which allow much bigger number of Mini LEDs applied on a TV with thousand-level local dimming zones, bringing million-level high contrast, stunning peak brightness in the imagery as well as prominent detail performance by TCL's exquisite light control algorithm, which all help to reveal every detail in very bright areas, such as sunlight or darkness of caves.

TCL's much-anticipated 2023 Mini LED and QLED TV series will be available to global markets starting from the first quarter. Please stav-tuned and contact your nearest TCL office or visit our social media channels for latest information.

TCL established its operations in Pakistan in 2013 and has maintained its position as the No.1 LED share of 20.7%, according to TV brand in the country in

## MMBL extends unlimited OPD consultation

#### **№** News Desk

ISLAMABAD: Mobilink Microfinance Bank Limited (MMBL), has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Sehat Kahani, a leading telemedicine platform, to provide affordable and accessible Outpatient Department (OPD) consultation services to its existing and potential customers. Through this partnership, MMBL customers will have access to a dedicated telehealth helpline round-the-clock from the comfort of their homes.

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



mony Ghazanfar Azzam, President and CEO MMBL said, medicine platform, is a signifi- ing their overall well-being

ing economic growth across cant step towards ensuring that countries that are home to our valued customers can get in more than 8% of the world's touch with doctors and health experts quickly and affordably, Speaking at the signing cere- whenever needed. With this  $partnership, MMBL \, continues$ to make strides in its mission "MMBL understands that to provide ever-innovative, access to quality healthcare value-added digital finanservices is an essential need. cial products and services for Our collaboration with Sehat the benefit of the masses and Kahani, Pakistan's leading tele- contribute towards improv-

and quality of life." Further, Dr. Iffat Zafar, Co-Founder and Chief Operations Officer for Sehat Kahani added her remarks on this occasion, "Sehat Kahani is committed to providing affordable healthcare services to underserved communities in Pakistan. We are excited to collaborate with Mobilink Microfinance Bank Limited and provide our telemedicine

MMBL is dedicated to promoting financial inclusion and uplifting underserved segments of society by partnering with organizations that share its vision and values. Through its strategic partners, MMBL is working rigorously to make a positive impact in

the communities it serves in.

services to their clients. This

collaboration will enable us to

expand our reach and provide

even better-quality healthcare

## MOU Signing Ceremony at RCCI to make Rawalpindi Green



News Desk

RAWALPINDI: A memorandum of understanding has been signed at Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI) with Parks & Horticulture Authority - PHA, Directorate of Education Colleges, Forest Department, and RCCI to make Rawalpindi Green under the initiative of Government of

Punjab Interim Minister for Health Dr. Jamal Nasir, **Education Interim Minis**ter Mansoor Qadir, and Commissioner Rawalpindi Liagat Ali Chatha witnessed

the MOU ceremony. President RCCI Mr. Sagib

Rafiq, signed and exchanged the MOU documents with the representatives from PHA, Directorate of Education Colleges and Forest Department at a ceremony held at Chamber house. Group leader RCCI Mr.

Sohail Altaf, Senior Vice President Hamza Sarosh, Vice President Faisal Shahzad, President Small Chamber Tariq Jadoon, Women Chamber President Riffat Shaheen. Sheikh Hafeez, executive committee members and members were also present

## TikTok and Zindagi Trust launch second phase of digital safety campaign

#### **Spokesman Report**

ISLAMABAD: TikTok and Zindagi Trust have announced an extension of their collaboration aimed at driving digital safety awareness with the support of the Ministry of Information Technology and Telecommunications. This renewed partglobal endeavours during Safer Internet Month, will impact over around 1800 students, teachers and 50,000 beneficiaries across 100 parents. The workshops contained public schools across all provinces in Pakistan. Additionally, the Pakistan Telecom Foundation has also become part of this partnership and will provide access to an increased

between TikTok and Zindagi Trust in the presence of the MoITT, who endorsed the Digital Safety programme. During the first phase of this partnership that was launched last year, over 20 workshops were conducted in the two adopted government schools of nership, which is a part of TikTok's Zindagi Trust: SMB Fatima Jinnah and Khatoon-e-Pakistan benefitting comprehensive information on becoming digitally safe, including TikTok's Community Guidelines and safety policies.

Farah Tukan, Head of Governnumber of schools for this campaign. ment Relations and Public Policy-

A signing ceremony took place Middle East, Turkey, Africa, Pakistan and South Asia at TikTok, said: "We are happy to extend our partnership with Zindagi Trust, especially after the impact we were jointly able to create around digital safety awareness during the first phase.

Federal Minister for IT and Telecommunication, Sved Amin UlHaque said: "To commemorate the Safer Internet month, the government deems it a priority to actively work towards providing safer digital spaces. The partnership between Zindagi Trust and TikTok is a step in the right direction for disseminating necessary awareness and guiding young people towards digital safety. We are looking forward



to add value to this partnership for tion Technology Board, said: "We the benefit of our younger genera-

Aisha HumeraMoriani, Additional Secretary and Chief Executive Officer, National Informa-

are fully committed to building a cutting-edge digital infrastructure in Pakistan which promises a safe cyberspace and a conducive regulatory environment for everyone.

# Preparations for 'Karachi Games 2023' in full swing

KARACHI: Preparations for Karachi Games, 2023, which will begin on March 3, is being organized by Karachi Metropolitan Corporation (KMC) as preparations are in full swing.

Different games are scheduled under 'Karachi Games' auspices as KMC Sports Complex; Women Sports Complex, Nazimabad Gymkhana; Eastern Star Ground; TMC Ground; Gulbarg Gymkhana; Shadab Ground; Landhi Gymkhana; KP Ground; Karachi Hockey Association Stadium; Islahuddin Hockey Stadium; KMC Football Stadium; Trans Lyari Football Ground: Star Football Ground; Ibrahim Hydari Football Ground; Aram Bagh Court; Sindh Sports Board Complex Nazimabad; and People's Sports Complex will host various sporting events.

Special arrangements are being made for the sports' gala under the direction of Administrator Karachi Dr. Syed Saifur-Rahman.

All concerned sports associations had been consulted and in light of their suggestions, cricket, hockey and football grounds, swimming pools, basket-



ball court, track and field arenas, squash courts, badminton courts, snooker tables and other places had been provided with modern facilities, said a statement on Friday.

"Karachi Games 2023 will be held in accordance with the prescribed international rules and regulations of various sports and it will be mandatory for the participating players, teams and officials to adhere to these rules," the state-

ment added.

Administrator Dr. Sved Saifur Rahman had directed the organizers to ensure best players, teams, to be shortlisted for the said event. He also directed that these games should be widely advertised through mass media to generate enthusiasm among the citi-

"Not only cricket, football and hockey

but citizens take a keen interest in other sports, so their preferences should be taken into consideration," the administrator directed from the Secretariat of Karachi Games 2023, established at KMC Sports Complex.

In this secretariat, technical staff, a ground committee including officials and members of various sports associations will be presented, while a media corner has also been provided for journalists related to print and electronic media to make this event successful and memorable.

The sports events included in the Karachi Games are cricket, hockey, football, basketball, shooting ball, volleyball, softball, netball, dodgeball, karate, taekwondo, judo, vishu, badminton, table tennis, snooker, boxing, squash, chess, Rowing, Carrom, body building, swimming, roller skating, sepak takra, futsal, tug of war, gymnastics, wrestling, shooting, scrabble, tennis, cycle race, donkey cart race, arm wrestling, mass wrestling, weight lifting, marathon race. Apart from field and track zens to witness the Karachi Games in events, the traditional cultural sports of large numbers in stadiums and grounds. Sindh Malakhra Kabaddi and Khokhu are also included.

#### Basant Festival

RAWALPINDI: Youngsters are busy in flying kits during Basant Festival in the city.

## Matloob Ahmed proceeds to the top in 9th J.A.Zaman Open Golf Championship

Tahir Amin Malik

LAHORE: At the end of the second round in the four rounds Professionals Event his desire for regulation competition of the Zaman pars on eleven holes. Excel-Family backed 9th J.A.Zaman Memorial Open Golf Championship in progress on 6th ,11th and 13th .All in at the Lahore Gymkha- all the effort fetched him a Ahmed the second ranked him a two rounds aggregate golf professional of Paki- of 139, five under par . This stan became the top posi- enlivens his winning chances tion occupant .He secured and at the half way mark he access to the top of the lead- appears as the top contenderboard through resplendent er to the J.A.Zaman title for handling of the golf course 2023, as this championship challenges and consummate gets into the third round. application of golfing skills.

pulled off with expertise on holes 15 and then the closing 18th hole .He fulfilled lence neutralizing bogies were encountered on holes

Three other stars of the In the course of the 18 holes second round on Friday golfing round on Friday, he turned out to be Shahid relatively new face Sunny was just marvelous on the Javed Khan and Sunny par 4,third hole and there- Masih of Lahore Gymkhana round of gross 72 on Friday after on the par5,16th hole ,and M.Munir of Rawalpin-.The result of this effort was di Golf Club. A seasoned golf two eagles which brought professional of the country a touch of excellence to his ,Shahid Javed was a symbol score card. There were a few of excellence on six holes

where he recorded delight national golf circuit. giving birdies backed by an eagle on the par-5,16th hole .Along the way ,noticeable was lack of focus also and the result was loss of strokes on four holes because of bogies .However in the overall reckoning ,one eagle ,six birdies eight pars and unwantna Golf Course,Matloob spectacular gross 69 giving ed four birdies gave him a second round score of gross 68 and a two days aggregate of 140 ,four under par .He trails the leader Matloob Ahmed by one stroke .This position gives him cheer as well as a bit of fright as the seasoned and accomplished M.Munir is also placed at the score of 140 alongwith the Masih who managed a and a two rounds total of 140 .Certainly reflects a determined effort on his part to rub shoulders with the high and mighty ones of the

Another aspirant in line for a wonderful position in this championship is the South Africa trained Minhaj Warraich who continues to impress with his golf playing abilities .He is placed at a

score of 141,three under par. More aspirants in line for gainful positions are Ahmed Baig at 142,Khalid Khan and Muhammed Shahzad at 144, followed by four masterly ones at 145. They are Muhammed Alam .Akbar Mehroze .Waheed Baloch and the incredible one Shabbir Iqbal

It certainly is developing into a contest between champions of excellent golf playing ability.

The first tee off on Saturday in this 9th J.A.Zaman Open Golf Championship will take place at 830am at Lahore Gymkhana Golf

#### EBM puts on an impressive show at Gulfood 2023



News Desk

DUBAI : English Biscuit Manufacturers (EBM) participated in the Gulfood Exhibition 2023, with an impressive pavilion that caught the eye of foreign visitors and buyers alike, leaving them with the desire to learn more about the company's brands and their plans to expand into international markets. This year, EBM launched its creams portfolio in the Middle East, comprising of its two top brands RIO and Sandwich, which were a

EBM's dedication to keep investing in R&D to introduce innovative products to the liking of its consumers is in line with the company's mission to nourish lives. Exhibitions like Gulfood are held in high regard by EBM as such platforms help the compan grow manifold in the international market.

Speaking on the occasion, the Managing Director and CEO of EBM, Dr. Zeelaf Munir, said: "We are thrilled to be here once again and are grateful for the opportunity provided to us by Gulfood to showcase Pakistan's capability when it comes to producing baked goods. Despite the economic challenges faced during these tough times, we have been able to strengthen our position as a market leader. We remain fully committed to providing healthy and nutritious baked delights to our consumers in Pakistan and beyond."

Executive Director at EBM, Shahzain Munir said: "The feedback from the international community has been very encouraging. We are very pleased with how they displayed a willingness to learn more about our brands and our future plans. The reason behind EBM's expanded footprint is the result of the immense hard work of over five years. The exploration of opportunities to expand our international business remains one of our key priorities, as we will be able to contribute towards the growth of Pakistan's exports as a company, which is the need of the hour in the current times."

With a strong foothold in over 30 countries, EBM takes great pride in exporting its products to the United States, the United Kingdom, Canada, Europe, the Middle East, and Africa. It continues to remain a market leader and at the forefront of the continuous evolution in the FMCG industry.EBM envisions continuing to provide products that are rich in quality and nutrition, thus making an impact through its purpose of nourishing lives, hearts, and communities.

#### All Pakistan Football Tournaments at Scouts Complex inaugurated



**Adam Khan Wazir** 

WANA: The All Pakistan Football Tournament was inaugurated by Commandant SWS Muhammad Owais Shamim at Scouts Sports Complex in L Wana, Lower South Waziristan.

Along with the inauguration of the Scouts Sports Complex, the All-Pakistan Football Tournament named "Message of Peace" was officially launched.

On the occasion of inauguration, South Waziristan Scouts Force officers, youths, tribal elders and youths associated with sports fields participated in large numbers.

According to the details, Commandant of South Waziristan Scouts in Wana, Lower South Waziristan Muhammad Owais Shamim officially inaugurated the All Pakistan Football Tournament at the Scouts Sports Complex.

Along with Commandant South Waziristan, military officers, youths, tribal elders and youth belonging to sports activities participated in large numbers, this sports competition is a message of peace in Waziristan, 39 teams from across the country will participate in the football tournament arranged at the Scouts Sports Complex, including 25 local and 14 non-local

football teams. The non-local teams include the famous football teams of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan.

Today's opening match will be played between Pak-Afghan Zhob Football Club and New Atish Football Club DI Khan.

Commandant South Waziristan Scouts Muhammad Owais Shamim says that sports activities are very important for the physical fitness of football-related youth.

South Waziristan Scouts started the tournament at their complex due to lack of sports ground.

Now after the South Waziristan Wana Sports Complex, the youth will play an important role in sports activities, not only the youth of South Waziristan Wana will benefit from the South Waziristan Scouts Complex, but also the sportsmen from all over the country will benefit from it.

Earlier, in the 80s and 90s, Wana used to play for various

sports departmental teams of Pakistan in Waziristan. However, from 1996 to 1999 in Waziristan Wana, players from all over Pakistan used to come and populate these fields of scouts with their sports activities, and the players of the famous teams of Pakistan have shown their skills.



Karachi Essa Ranking Table Tennis Tournament Junior Under-15 Champion Arham bin Farrukh receiving the medal from the chief guest Nihal Essa

#### Gurbaz credits pre-match chat with Babar for solid performance

👺 Bureau Report

KARACHI: Islamabad United batter Rahmanullah Gurbaz has credited the useful tips shared by Babar Azam before the game for his sensational knock against Peshawar Zalmi on Thursday.

Aghanistan's 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. He claimed that the pre-match chat with the Pakistan captain helped him a lot to change the way he used to bat.

"I changed one thing in my batting today. I also focused on some strike rotation. Before this, I just try to hit too hard but today my focus was also to play some good cricketing shots," he said in a post-match press conference.

I spoke to Babar before the match and asked about his mindset. He shared his experience with me and I applied that to my batting and it helped."

## 2nd President of Pakistan Polo Cup 2023

**Sports Desk** 

LAHORE: Diamond Paints and FG Polo registered triumphs over their respective opponents in the 2nd President of Pakistan Polo Cup 2023 sponsored by Takmeel Square matches played here at

the Jinnah Polo Fields on Friday. Mir Huzaifa Ahmad steered Diamond Paints to a narrow 8-7½ over Master Paints in the first match of the day. Mir Huzaifa, who emerged as hero of the day for Diamond Paints, Mir Huzaifa played splendid polo and converted three tremendous goals, while Nico Roberts and Ahmed Ali Tiwana banged in a brace each and Chulo Corti struck one goal. Manuel Crispo fired in five goals

Pelagio Balazaldi scored one goal each for Master Paints, which had a half goal handicap advantage.

Diamond Paints started the match with a field goal to take a 1-0 lead which couldn't last long as Master Paints struck an equalizer to level the score at 1-1. Just before the end of the first chukker, Diamond Paints successfully converted a 40-yard penalty to get back a slight 2-1 lead. The second chukker saw total dominance of Master Paints, who slammed in four back-to-back four goals to earn a healthy 5-2

Diamond Paints made a strong comeback in the third chukker by hammering a hat-trick of goals to equalize the score at 5-5. while Agha Musa Ali Khan and Diamond Paints maintained their

fourth and last chukker by hammering another hat-trick of goals to gain an 8-5 lead. Master Paints though bounced back in the dying moments of the match by thrashing in two back-to-back goals to reduce the deficit to 7-8, yet it was all that they could get from the match as when the final bell was rung, Diamond Paints won the encounter by  $8-7\frac{1}{2}$ .

supremacy in the highly-charged

Mian Abbas Mukhtar and Raul Laplacette were the two heroes of the day, who fired in four goals each FG Polo's impressive 9-6 victory over DS Polo in the second match of the day. Both Abbas Mukhtar and Laplacette were in sublime form and displayed outstanding mallet and pony work that steered their side

to an emphatic success, which also included a lone goal contribution from Ramiro Zavaleta. For DS Polo, Hissam Ali Hyder hammered three goals while Javier Guerrero scored two goals and Bilal Haye one.

Both the teams were off to a flying start as they converted one goal after another and finished the first chukker at 3-3. FG Polo played better polo in the second chukker by scoring two goals against one by DS Polo to earn a 5-4 lead. The third chukker was identical to the second one, where FG Polo players once again played well and thrashed in two goals against one by DS Polo to stretch their lead to 7-5.

supremacy in the fourth and last



against one by DS Polo to win tant matches will be played on here at the Jinnah Polo Fields,

FG Polo maintained their chukker by pumping in two goals the match by 9-6. Two impor- Sunday (February 26) afternoon