

Qamar Zaman Kaira assures to resolve AJK's economic problems

Azad Jammu and Kashmir Prime Minister Sardar Tanveer Ilyas called on Advisor to the PM on Kashmir Affairs and Gilgit-Baltistan Qamar Zaman Kaira, here, on Wednesday. (Report on Page 8)



Vietnamese envoy calls for urgent steps to boost bilateral trade

Ambassador of Vietnam to Pakistan, Mr. Nguyen Tien Pong, has said that there are vast opportunities to increase bilateral trade between the two countries, which need immediate steps to take advantage of accelerating businesses. He was talking during a meeting with Faisalabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FCCI) President Dr. Khurram Tariq. (Report on Page 5)

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Appreciations

Islamabad: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday distributing certificates of appreciation among the members of Pakistan's Search and Rescue teams who rendered services in the earthquake affected areas of Turkiye and Syria.

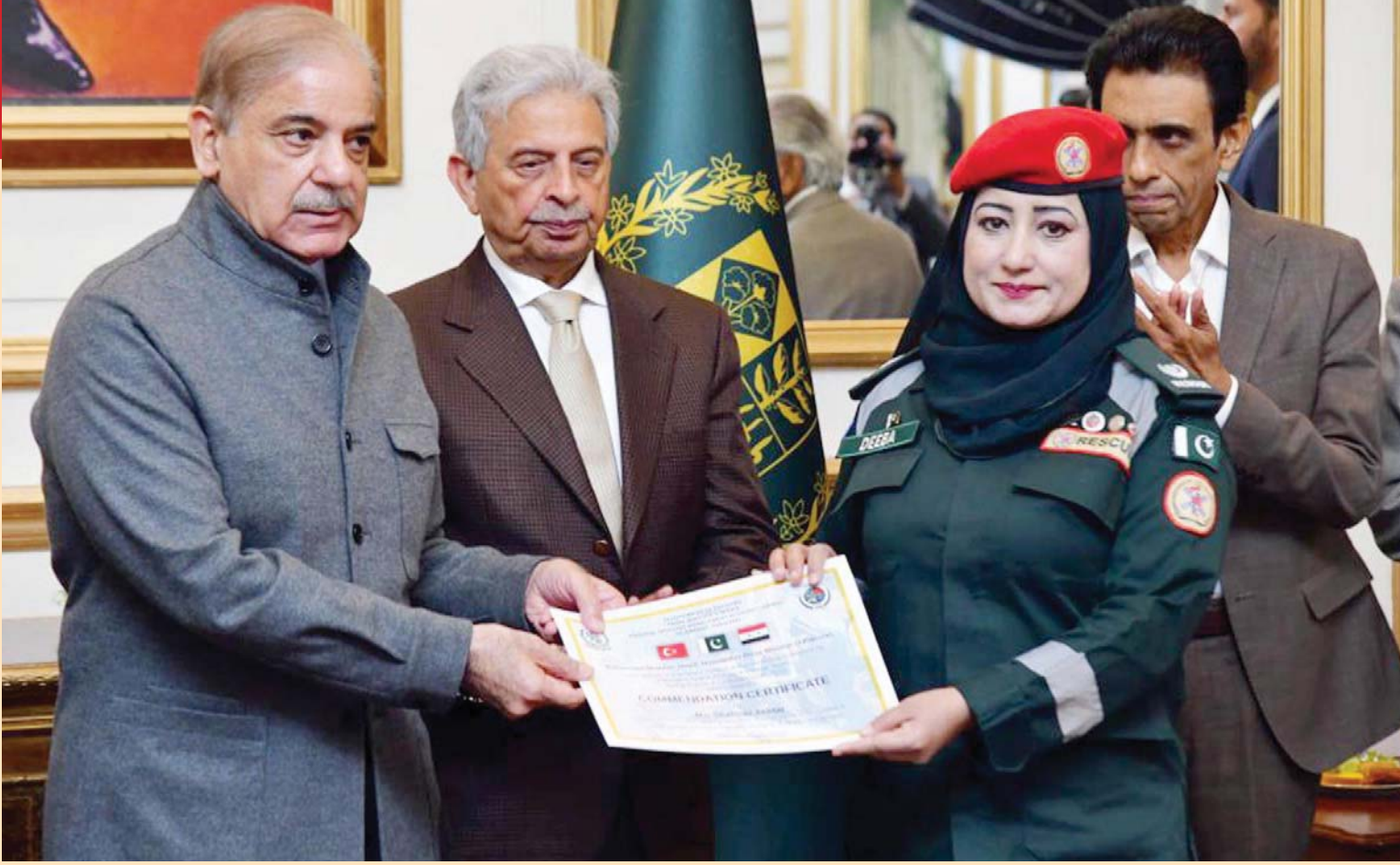


Photo: PID

COAS lauds rescue teams for heroics in quake-hit Turkiye, Syria

News Desk

RAWALPINDI : Chief of Army Staff (COAS) Gen Syed Asim Munir on Wednesday visited the Headquarters Engineers Division here and appreciated the professionalism and commendable work done by 'USAR team' of Pakistan Army during rescue efforts in the earthquake-hit Turkiye and Syria.

According to the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR), the COAS was briefed on efforts carried out by the Pakistan Army's Urban Search and Rescue Team (USAR) in



Turkiye and Syria.

The COAS met and interacted with the rescue team members. He also highlighted the importance of the country's enduring strategic relations with Turkiye and Syria and the need to assist, particularly in times of crises.

PM lauds humanitarian services of Pakistan's rescue teams in Turkiye, Syria

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD : Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday appreciated the humanitarian services of Pakistan's search and rescue teams sent to support and assist the earthquake-affected brotherly people of Turkiye and Syria.

Addressing a ceremony to honour Pakistan's search and rescue teams, the prime minister said they had gathered to praise them as they had worked tirelessly in Turkiye and Syria, and rendered commendable services. The 220 million people of Pakistan prayed for their success and appreciated the humanitarian services.

He said, "With hard work, dedication, and professional manner, our teams performed the rescue work and saved dozens of people trapped under the rubble. With your

benvolent and caring efforts, you have carved a place in the hearts of the people of Turkiye. They will remember your services forever."

The prime minister recollected that during his visit to the quake-hit region of Turkiye, he met the teams working there.

"On behalf of myself and on behalf of the government, I want to thank and appreciate you because you have strengthened the brotherly and fraternal ties with these two countries, and infused vigour and affection in these relations with your meritorious services," he added.

The prime minister observed that the people of Turkiye were looking towards them not because they had a dearth of resources but due to the deep-seated humanitarian and religious bonds spanning over centuries.

Apex court upholds constitution by ordering Punjab, KP elections within 90 days

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD : The Supreme Court of Pakistan on Wednesday directed the authorities concerned to hold the general elections in Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa within 90 days of the dissolution of the assemblies.

A five-member bench, headed by Chief Justice Umar Ata Bandial and comprising Justice Munib Akhtar, Justice Muhammad Ali Mazhar, Justice Mansoor Ali Shah and Justice Jamal Mandokhail, announced the verdict on the suo motu notice with a split decision of 3-2. Justice Shah and Justice Mandokhail wrote dissenting notes as they raised objections to the very admissibility of the case.

Previously, the case was being heard by the nine-member bench but it split on Monday into a five-judge bench after four judges - Justice Ijazul Ahsan, Justice Syed Mazhar Ali Akbar Naqvi, Justice Yahyah Afridi and Justice Athar Minallah - recused themselves from hearing the case.

The assemblies were dissolved by the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) in January



to seek fresh elections in the provinces. After the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) and governors of both provinces failed to give a date for the elections, President Arif Alvi unilaterally announced that elections would be held in Punjab and KP on April 9 as time was running out.

Key Points of the Ruling

- Elections must be held within 90 days of dissolution of assemblies
- Two judges raised objections to the very admissibility of the case
- President can announce date for elections when assembly is not dissolved by governor
- ECP, president have been directed to

hold consultation for fresh date for polls in Punjab

- President's notification of KP elections declared null and void
- KP governor ordered to announce date for elections as he had dissolved the assembly

The apex court declared the president's move to unilaterally announce date for elections in KP null and void, saying the provincial assembly was dissolved by Governor Ghulam Ali Khan and he was responsible for giving the date. However, the top court upheld the president's notification of elections in Punjab as the provincial assembly was dissolved there without the consent of the governor.

If it was impossible to hold elections in Punjab on April 9, the president and the ECP should change the schedule with consultation, ruled the top court. It said the KP governor deviated from his constitutional responsibility by not announcing a date for the elections. The apex court directed the governor to announce a date for elections as soon as possible.

IHC suspends de-notification of three PTI MNAs

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: In another immediate relief to the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), the Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Wednesday suspended National Assembly (NA) Speaker Raja Pervaiz Ashraf's notification regarding the acceptance of PTI MNAs' resignations from Islamabad.

Issuing the interim order on petitions filed by Asad Umar, Ali Nawaz Awan and Raja Khurram Nawaz, the IHC also suspended the process of by-elections in the petitioners' constituencies.

IHC judge heard a petition filed by 3 PTI MNAs including former finance minister Asad Umar, Ali Nawaz Awan, and Khurram Nawaz, challenging two notifications - one issued by the National Assembly speaker through which their resignations were accepted and the second of ECP in which they had been de-notified.

Greece: At least 26 killed, 85 injured in two trains collision

Spokesman Report

ATHENS: Twenty-six people were killed and at least 85 injured after two trains collided head-on in Greece late on Tuesday night, the fire brigade said, while the circumstances of the crash remained unclear.

An intercity passenger train travelling from Athens to the northern city of Thessaloniki collided with a cargo train outside the city of Larissa in central Greece, said the governor of the Thessaly region.

"The collision was very strong," governor Konstantinos Agorastos told SKAI TV, adding the first four carriages of the passenger train had derailed.

The first two carriages, which caught fire after the collision, were "almost completely destroyed," said Agorastos.

About 250 passengers were

evacuated safely to Thessaloniki on buses. One passenger told state broadcaster ERT he managed to escape after breaking the train window with his suitcase.

"There was panic in the carriage, people were screaming," a young man who was evacuated to a nearby bridge told SKAI TV. "It was like an earthquake," Angelos Tsiamouras, another passenger, told ERT.

Broadcaster SKAI showed footage of derailed carriages, badly damaged with broken windows and thick plumes of smoke, as well as debris strewn across the road. Rescue workers were seen carrying torches in carriages looking for trapped passengers.

"The evacuation of passengers is under way in very difficult conditions given the severity of the collision of the two trains," fire brigade spokesperson Vassil-

lis Varthakogiannis said in a televised address.

In the early hours of Wednesday, footage from state broadcaster ERT showed rescue workers with headlights searching the wreckage and surrounding fields for survivors.

Local media reported about 350 people were travelling on the passenger train, which departed Athens around 19:30 local time (0530 GMT). The fire brigade said it was informed of the accident shortly before midnight on Tuesday. The cargo train had been travelling from Thessaloniki to Larissa.

The passenger train is operated by the Italian group Ferrovie dello Stato Italiane, which according to its website is the main provider of rail transport for passengers and freight in Greece and runs 342 passenger and commercial routes a day.

Imran announces to kick off election campaign

Bureau Report

LAHORE: Former prime minister and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan has announced to kick off election campaign from Saturday following the Supreme Court (SC) verdict of elections in Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) to be held within 90 days.

Addressing a press conference via video link, the former premier said that he would address the public gathering during the election campaign, saying that he would announce the PTI's next plan of action on Saturday.

Maryam asks workers to identify culprits responsible for country's economic woes



Party's youth and social media wing in Sahiwal, she said the youth was the precious asset of the country. PML-N has always provided youth the opportunities to progress. PML-N would play a historic role in driving the country out of the crisis.

City Reporter

ISLAMABAD : Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz (PML-N) Chief Organiser Maryam Nawaz on Tuesday asked her party workers to start preparations for elections, enhance interaction with people and apprise them about characters who were responsible for inflation and economic destruction of the country.

Presiding over a meeting of In the meeting, the organizational structure of the youth wing was reviewed while consultations were held on the expansion of the youth wing. Maryam Nawaz said that the youth must understand the difference between truth and lies. She said that providing education and training to the youth was the key to the development of Pakistan as Muslim League (N) has given books and laptops to the youth for this purpose.

Imran's comical 'Jail Bharo' show ends in fiasco: Marriyum

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Information and Broadcasting Marriyum Aurangzeb Wednesday said the comic show - 'Jail Bharo' (court arrest) campaign - of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf Chairman Imran Khan, had proved to be a complete fiasco.

The movement would, in fact, start with Imran Khan being jailed for the crimes he had committed while in govern-

ment, she said in a post on her Twitter handle, tagging a tweet of the PTI chief announcing to end his party's court arrest drive.

She recalled that (as prime minister) it was Imran Khan's responsibility to safeguard the Constitution, but he forced the president, and the National Assembly speaker and deputy speaker to violate the Constitution on the pretext of a 'foreign conspiracy', which was a total lie.

Administering oath

ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi on Wednesday administered oath of office to Fauzia Viqar as Federal Ombudsperson for Protection against Harassment at Workplace.



Photo: PID

ECC approves Ramzan Relief Package; wheat support price at Rs3,900/40kg

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD : Among other decision, the Economic Coordination Committee (ECC) of the Cabinet here on Wednesday approved Ramazan Relief Package and a uniform procurement price of wheat crop 2022-23 at Rs. 3900/40 kilogram.

According to press statement issued by finance ministry, the summary regarding wheat procurement price was tabled by Ministry of National Food Security and Research before ECC meeting, which was presided over by Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar.

The ECC also approved hybrid model of Ramzan Relief Package (Targeted and Un-targeted) consisting of 19 items for Utility Stores Corporation, budgeted of Rs. 5 billion. The summary was moved by the Ministry of Industries and Production.

Ministry of Industries and Production presented a report on the logistic plan of PASSCO for in-land transportation of imported wheat 2022-23.

The ECC approved Karachi Port Trust (KPT) Board Resolution regarding waiving



off all the charges of storage on the stuck-up containers/cargo landed help up at Karachi Port as a result of non-retirement of Letter of Credits and remittances of Foreign Exchange subject to condition that demurrages charges on each case beyond Rs. 5 million will be waived off after getting certification from SBB.

The ECC further directed to submit a report on magnitude and amount of cleared consignments on monthly basis.

On the occasion, the Ministry of Energy (Power Division) submitted a summary on Uniform Tariff for K-Electric at par with XWDICOS 2nd Quarter 2021-22. The ECC approved tariff rationalization for K-electric by way of adjustments on the consumption of

July 2022 to September 2022 and to recover from consumers from March 2023 to May 2023 respectively.

The ECC considered another summary of Ministry of Energy (Power Division) on uniform tariff for K-Electric at par with XWDICOS 1st Quarter 2022-23 and allowed tariff rationalization by way of adjustments for K-electric on the consumption of Feb-23 to March-23 and to recover from consumers in March-2023 to April 2023 respectively.

The ECC also considered another summary of Ministry of Energy (Power Division) and approved the proposal regarding enhancement of surcharge for financial year 24 to cover federal government obligations towards power

producers.

Further, these surcharges for FY 24 will also be applied to K-Electric consumers to maintain uniform tariff across the country.

The cabinet committee approved several Technical Supplementary Grants/Supplementary Grants including Rs. 200 Million in favour of Ministry of Housing and Works for execution of development schemes- road from Lalmoosa to Noona Wali Bhago and Malwana with link infrastructure Tehsil Kharian.

It also approved Rs. 429.436 million in favour of Ministry of Housing and Works for development schemes of district Kasur; Rs. 702.9 million in favour of Ministry of Housing and Works for execution

of schemes in Punjab province under sustainable development goals achievement programme and Rs. 12 million in favour of Ministry of Interior for National programme for Improvement of Water courses Phase-II in ICT.

The cabinet committee also approved Rs. 20 million in favour of Ministry of Interior for National programme for enhancement command areas in Barani areas of ICT and Rs. 1112.04 million in favour of Ministry of Interior for project implementation letter of HQ FC (South) & HQ FC (North).

Among others, the meeting was attended by Federal Minister for Power, Khurram Dastgir Khan; Federal Minister for Industries and Production, Syed Murtaza Mahmud; Federal Minister for Planning and Special Initiatives, Ahsan Iqbal; Minister of State for Petroleum, Musadik Masood Malik; Shahid Khaqan Abbasi MNA/Ex-PM; Special Assistant to Prime Minister (SAPM) on Finance, Tariq Bajwa, SAPM on Revenue, Tariq Mehmood Pasha, SAPM on Government Effectiveness, Dr. Muhammad Jehanzeb Khan; Chairman SECP, MD PASSCO, Federal Secretaries and other senior officers.

Qamar Zaman Kaira assures to resolve AJK's economic problems

News Desk

ISLAMABAD : Azad Jammu and Kashmir Prime Minister Sardar Tanveer Ilyas called on Advisor to the PM on Kashmir Affairs and Gilgit-Baltistan Qamar Zaman Kaira, here, on Wednesday.

In the meeting, there was a detailed discussion regarding the ongoing development

projects and economic issues in Azad Jammu and Kashmir, said a press release.

The advisor to PM Kaira said that Kashmir has a special significance in the heart of the people of Pakistan, adding that Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif had issued special instructions to resolve the problems of AJK.

In the current fiscal year,

the financial budget of AJK had been maintained at the same amount despite cuts in the budgets of all provinces, said Kaira.

Qamar Zaman Kaira assured the AJK PM that the federal government would continue playing a positive role to resolve the problems of the valley without bringing into consideration any political

affiliations.

Meanwhile, AJK PM Sardar Tanveer Ilyas apprised the advisor on the ongoing economic challenges in terms of increased overall value of various projects on the heel of an increase in remuneration of the staff due to inflation.

To which, the advisor replied that PSDP funds had been reduced across Pakistan.

Moreover, the AJK PM hoped that the Ministry of Kashmir Affairs would play its role in paying the region its due share from Universal Service Fund (USF).

"There is a need to strengthen mutual cooperation and relations between the Ministry of Kashmir Affairs and the AJK government, Kaira stressed.

FBR surpasses budgetary target for February 2023

Commerce Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) has collected Rs 527.3 billion against the budgetary target of Rs 527 billion during the month of February 2023.

This shows a growth of 16.3 percent as compared to the collection of the same month of last year, said a press release issued here on Wednesday.

Cumulatively, FBR has collected Rs 4,493 billion in the first eight months of the current financial year against

VC KU, Russian varsities delegation discuss bilateral cooperation

Bureau Report

KARACHI : A seven-member delegation of the five leading universities from different parts of Russia on Wednesday called on University of Karachi Vice Chancellor Professor Dr Khalid Mahmood Iraqi.

They discussed the proposals of initiating cooperation and bilateral programs for the faculty members and the students of both the countries.

The delegation comprised Iana Grigoreva, Head of the International Department, and Irina Karpeeva, Expert of the International Department

from Pirogov Russian National Research Medical University, Rustem Chanshev of Kazan Federal University, Aleksandra Shevchenko, Head of the International Department, and Nikita Sirotenko, Expert of Admission Department from Saint Petersburg State University of Industrial Technologies and Design, SPbSUITD, Natalia Kovaleva, Head of Academic Mobility Department, Ural Federal University, and Konstantin Vinogradov, Head of International Projects Department, Russian State Agrarian University - Moscow Timiryazev Agricultural Academy

(RSAU - MTAA named after K.A. Timiryazev).

They briefed the KU VC, deans of various faculties, and members of the student's advisory council about the programs and degrees offered in the Russian universities.

Meanwhile, KU Students' Advisor Dr Syed Asim Ali briefed the visiting delegation about the history of the university, its teaching and research activities.

The Russian delegation and the KU administration agreed that by establishing a good working relationship, the KU and Russian varsities could

initiate various joint academic programs and would be able to provide facilities to their faculty and students.

They also discussed and agreed to launch faculty and student exchange programs, joint research publications, and co-supervising research work and publications at different departments of the KU and Russian varsities.

It was agreed that multiple joint programs could be launched to facilitate scholars, students, and faculty of both countries. They also discussed plans for online participation in seminars and workshops.

Imran orchestrated attack on Judicial Complex: Rana Sana

City Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Interior Rana Sanaullah on Wednesday said the attack on the Judicial Complex in Islamabad by the PTI workers was carried out under a well-thought-out plan which showed that party chief Imran Khan was the "main architect and mastermind".

The Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chairman, he said, was solely responsible for the violence at the Judicial Complex on Tuesday as it was he who had directed his party workers to gather there to pressurise the courts.

Imran Khan very much knew about his fate as his crime had been proved in the Toshakhana case and the wrong affidavit submitted in the Tyrian White case, and that was why he used social media to incite his party workers to violence, the minister said addressing a press conference.

He said all the fuss at the Judicial Complex was orchestrated by him in a bid to conceal his crimes. It also showed how the former prime minister would make court appearances leading a mob in total disregard for the law.

Rana Sanaullah, however, made it clear that the government was not oblivious to its duties and would enforce the writ of the state.

He said two first information reports (FIRs) of the incident had been registered, nominating 150 PTI workers, including Imran Khan as accused. Some 29 accused had



been arrested, while further arrests would be made after confirmation through CCTV footage.

He said weapons were also recovered from the arrested persons, while an armed policeman of a province was also taken into custody.

The minister urged the judiciary not to give any relief to Imran Khan in the cases as he was the "mastermind" of the attack on the Judicial Complex.

Rana Sanaullah said the PTI leaders and workers could not spend even five days in jail. Ironically, they themselves had courted arrest under their 'Jail Bharo' movement and were now seeking bail. Imran Khan realized that the so-called drive had flopped and that was why he announced to abandon it, he added.

He said the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz had always respected the courts and its leader and former prime minister Nawaz Sharif had attended dozens of court hearings at the same Judicial Complex.

Police instructed to produce Imran on March 7 in Toshakhana case



Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD : A lower court on Wednesday issued written orders regarding the non-bailable arrest warrants against PTI chairman Imran Khan in Toshakhana case.

District and Sessions Judge Zafar Iqbal issued the detailed order regarding the matter.

The court in its order stated that Imran Khan was deciding his appearances as per his 'priorities'. The court order stated that the Toshakhana case was not the priority of the PTI chief. The court in its written order instructed the Islamabad police to produce Imran Khan on March 7 after arresting the accused.

The order noted that Imran Khan had been absent repeatedly from the hearing and he couldn't appear even

in the last hearing during the court's time.

The order added that Imran Khan had said in his application that he couldn't appear before this court due to his attendance in the Judicial Complex before the banking court.

The order said that Imran Khan was just a few minutes drive away from the district Kachehri court, F8, adding that his application for exemption was not acceptable.

It may be mentioned that the district election commissioner Islamabad had filed the said case seeking criminal proceedings against Imran Khan for hiding the details of foreign gifts he received as the former prime minister and alleged undervaluation of the gift items before selling them at exorbitant rates.

Girl shot by fellow student in Karachi school

Bureau Report

KARACHI: A female student was shot and injured by a fellow student inside a school in Karachi's Orangi Town.

The girl - a student of matriculation - was seriously injured at a school in Karachi's Orangi Town area after the gun of fellow student - Fazalullah - went off in the classroom. The injured girl was immediately shifted to Abbasi Shaheed Hospital for initial treatment.

The school's management told police that the incident took place in one of the classrooms in which a shot was fired resulting in the student's injury.

Meanwhile, the police said that the student - who brought a weapon to school - escaped after the firing. The school administration stated that Fazalullah's family members have switched off their mobile phones.

The police have launched an investigation into whether the bullet

was fired accidentally or it was an attempt to murder.

It is pertinent to mention here that a student was killed inside a coaching centre by the firing of a youth in Karachi's Gulshan-e-Iqbal area.

A firing incident took place inside a coaching centre in Karachi's Gulshan-e-Iqbal area, leaving one student seriously wounded. The student succumbed to his wounds after being shifted to Civil Hospital in critical condition.

Police said that the slain student was identified as Ehsan Akhtar who got killed by the firing resorted to by a youth namely Luqman.

According to reports, a semi-automatic rifle AK-47 was allegedly used to gun down Ehsan Akhtar by Luqman who easily brought the weapon inside the coaching centre.

Senior Superintendent Police (SSP) East Tariq Mastoi reached the crime scene. He told the media that two students had fought in the coaching centre a few days ago but the administration settled the issue.

UE 10th convocation; 8087 students awarded degrees

News Desk

LAHORE: The 10th Convocation of University of Education, Lahore was held on March 01, 2023, at the Main Campus Township, Lahore, which was presided over by Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Talat Naseer Pasha (S.I.), while the Chairperson Punjab Higher Education Commission Prof. Dr. Shahid Munir was the chief guest. Vice Chancellors of various universities and important personalities from academic and social circles also presented on the occasion. In the convocation, 8087 students including 15 Ph.D., 287 MPhil/MS and 7785 undergraduate and graduates awarded degrees. On this occasion, 48 graduating students were also given medals for outstanding positions. The special feature of the 10th convocation of UE is that this time all the proceedings of the ceremony have been conducted in the national language (Urdu).



During his presidential address at the convocation, Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Talat Naseer Pasha (S.I.) congratulated all the students, their parents

and teachers who received degrees and medals. He said that of course Convocation is a historic and emotional occasion for students, parents and teachers. The Vice-Chancellor welcomed all the guests and said that the main objective of the University of Education, Lahore, established in 2002, was to prepare people for education and other fields, who have knowledge and

practical skills so that UE graduates can play their vital role in the development of the country. Keeping the main objective of the university in mind, we have adopted national and international modern standards of education so that we can prepare competent and skilled people for various fields according to the needs of the country. While congratulating the students, the chief guest Chairperson Punjab Higher Education Commission Prof. Dr. Shahid Munir said that the development of any country and nation depends on its young generation, whose best education and training is our unanimous social responsibility. And I am proud to say that the University of Education, Lahore has fulfilled its responsibility well, the university is providing the best opportunities to the new generation in terms of education and training. The vice chancellor of UE Prof. Dr. Talat Naseer Pasha (S.I.) is providing significant academic and scientific services at the national and international level. The efforts of Dr. Talat Naseer Pasha in further improving the educational standards in Pakistan are commendable. Finally, Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Talat Naseer Pasha (S.I.) thanked the distinguished guests for their arrival. Pro Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Muhammad Arshad, Directors/Principals of all Divisions and Campuses, prominent personalities from civil society, a large number of students and journalists were also present on the occasion.

District administration's successful negotiations with Raghzai Youth Society

Adam Khan Wazir

WANA: The sit-in held in favor of their demands at Raghzai area of Birmal Tehsil of South Waziristan Lower was ended after successful negotiations.



In the light of the special instructions of Deputy Commissioner South Waziristan Lower Muhammad Nasir Khan, a Grand Jirga negotiation team of local Ulemas, political leaders and tribal elders headed by Assistant Commissioner Wana Yasir Salman Kundi held talks with the Raghzai Youth Society, which listened to their demands and considered them as real and fundamental problems and accepted their demands at the regional level. The demands presented by the Raghzai Youth Society included restoration of electricity, starting work on mobile towers, 3G/4G restoration, DSL connection and laying of PTCL lines.

supervision of Assistant Commissioner Wana Yasir Salman Kundi.

A sit-in was held for the last 11 days and their demands, which was supported by a large number of local political leaders and local people, for the last three days, the Raghzai Youth Society had closed the Pak-Afghan

highway for all kinds of traffic by intensifying their sit-in. Due to which traffic was disrupted in addition to trade, in the light of the special instructions of Deputy Commissioner South Waziristan Lower Muhammad Nasir Khan, tribal elders, Ulemas, local political leaders successfully negotiated under the

The demands of the Raghzai Youth Society were accepted, after which the sit-in that has been going on for the last 11 days has been called off, Wana Pak-Afghan Angoor Ada Main Highway has been completely reopened by the protestors. 14 motorcycles, one rickshaw, mobile phones and other items seized from the citizens were recovered.

Sardar Attique approved the central office bearers of UK

Abdul Majeed Tahir

RAWALPINDI: President of All Jammu and Kashmir Muslim Conference, former Prime Minister of Azad Kashmir, Sardar Attique Ahmad Khan, using the powers granted under the Constitution, for the period 2023 to 2026, the Chairman of the Board/Wing HA and the President/General of Youth Wing UK for the period 2023 to 2026. Secretary approved.



According to the notification issued by the Secretary General of the Muslim Conference, Mrs. Mehru-Nisaa, the President of the Muslim Conference has approved the Chairman of the Board and Wing Ha from the United Kingdom, including Muhammad Riaz Butt, Luton, Chairman, and Seiz Tehreek Azadi Kashmir Board, Raja Zafarullah Khan, High Wycombe. Chairman Diplo-

matic Affairs and Human Rights Wing, Chaudhry Muhammad Jameel Tabasim. Slav. Chairman Overseas Investment Board, Chaudhry Mohammad Azim. London. Chairman Liaison Board, Raja Muhammad Nisar Khan. Luton. Chairman Labor Wing, Raja Muhammad Nasir Khan. Sheffield. Chairman Finance Board, Barrister Azhar. Rotherham. Chairman Lawyers Wing while Raja Adnan Danish. Alsbury. Chairman Youth Wing and Raja Owais Rasheed.

Birmingham. The general secretary will be the youth wing.

Abdul Majeed Tahir: Meanwhile President of Muslim Conference also announced the Central Executive Bearers and Members of the Central Executive Council of Great Britain. According to details

The President of All Jammu and Kashmir Muslim Conference, former Prime Minister of Azad Kashmir, Sardar Attique Ahmad Khan, using the powers obtained under the Constitution, approved the central office bearers and members of the Central Majlis from the United Kingdom for the period 2023 to 2026.

According to the notification issued by the Secretary General of the Muslim Conference, Mrs. Mehru-Nisaa, the names approved by the President of the Muslim Conference for the next term

as central officials and members of the Central Council from the United Kingdom include Chaudhry Muhammad Khan, Aldershot. Central Vice President, Maulana Abdul Khaliq Qadri. Walsal. Central Secretary, Malik Sajid Hussain. Bristol. Central Liaison Secretary, Sardar Naeem Sharbat. Nottingham. Chairman Overseas Publicity Board, while members in the Central Majlis-e-Amaila Raja Raza Khan. Nottingham, Chaudhry Muhammad Saleem. Birmingham, Raja Muhammad Bashir. Birmingham, Haji Muhammad Khan. Birmingham, Haji Chaudhry Muhammad Akbar. Oldham, Shabbir Malik. Luton, Ms. Fakhir al-Nisa. Slav, Sardar Sajid Abbasi. Nottingham, Lala Ali Asghar. Richehale, Babu Mushtaq. Bird Food, Sardar Sohrab Khan. Leeds, Fazil Zia. Luton and Syed Riaz Hussain Shah. Country names included

IMC's Impactful CSR Initiatives Recognized at NFEH Awards 2023



Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Indus Motor Company (IMC) added another win to its growing number of accolades, with the Corporate Social Responsibility Award for Community Development & Services, at the 15th Annual Corporate Social Responsibility Awards 2023, hosted by the National Forum of Environment & Health (NFEH), in Islamabad. Mr. Ahsan Iqbal, Federal Planning & Development Minister, presented the award to IMC's Syed Saqib Abbas, Regional Manager-North.

For the seventh year running, IMC has been winning this award which is a recognition of the company's vision and significant contributions towards creating an inclusive society that targets education, adult and child health, nutrition, the welfare of the differently-abled, promotion of sports, environmental conservation, and road safety.

Expressing himself, Chief Executive IMC, Ali Asghar Jamali, said, "There's greater awareness about social responsibility today and many companies are doing some great work that gets to be showcased at platforms such as the NFEH, which is laudable. We are proud of our CSR contributions and thank the NFEH for this recognition."

Forming alliances is an important part of IMC's CSR initiatives which include the flagship Toyota Goth Education Program run in tandem with TCF, free food distribution, and medical camps with Saylani Welfare Trust, the Childhood Blindness Prevention Program with Al Ibrahim Eye Hospital, and mental health camps with Karwan e Hayat, to name a few. With Ramadan approaching, IMC is gearing up to mobilize its teams to distribute free food rations to communities in need.

One day first aid training for journalists

Adam Khan Wazir



PESHAWAR: A one day training and workshop on first aid was arranged for the journalists of Peshawar under the organization of Center for Peace and Development Initiatives (CPDI) in which experts from Rescue 1122 trained journalists on first aid.

On this occasion, Project Manager of CPDI Noor Alam Khan while talking to the participants and media representatives said that the knowledge and skills of journalists to administer first aid and basic life saving skills are limited.

Since most of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province is full of conflicts where journalists and media workers face various threats

Therefore, the need to provide first aid and basic life-saving skills to journalists in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa is more important than ever.

The main objective of the workshop is to improve the first aid skills of media professionals in case of injury so that they can help themselves and other injured colleagues.

Trainers from Rescue 1122 gave detailed briefing and training to the participants on topics such as stopping acute blood flow, measures of fracture and vital signs, artificial respiration and how to restore heart rate.

During this time, the participants learned each technique practically, and finally, the media representatives were given first aid kits and certificates.

Apart from this, awareness posters and brochures regarding the first aid for the journalists present in the press club were also given to the participants so that the rest of the journalists can also benefit from it.

The participants appreciated CPDI organization of training workshops based on medical aid and hoped that CPDI would arrange more programs on medical aid and safety and security for journalists in the province.

Allotment of election symbols for the political parties

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Election Commission once again draws attention of all Political Parties, in compliance of Section-216 of the Elections Act, 2017, to submit, in person or through authorized representative, applications for allotment of Election Symbol for forthcoming General Elections of Provincial Assemblies of Punjab & Khyber Pakhtunkhwa latest by the extended date i.e. 8th March, 2023.

The application are required to be addressed to the Secretary, Election Commission of Pakistan in the Election Commission Secretariat, Constitution Avenue, G-5/2 Islamabad on or before the 8th March, 2023. Applications received after due date or through post /e-mail / fax will not be entertained.

Full roll-out of enumeration activity for 7th Population and Housing Census

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Field activities of 7th Population and Housing Census "The First Ever Digital Census" have started today in all over Pakistan digitally for the first time in the history of country. Chief Census Commissioner Dr Naeem uz Zafar inaugurated the field activities by marking first Building Structure in 'House Listing App'. Meanwhile, the inauguration in all divisions was carried out by respective Commissioners. The citizens of Pakistan being the most important stakeholders and beneficiary of the census are urged to ensure their full participation and cooperation during census field operation. The participation in the census is not only our moral & legal obligation but also provides the opportunity

to the government to devise evidence base policy planning for ensuring our rights and better service delivery at our doorstep.

PBS has already launched self-enumeration portal <https://self.pbs.gov.pk> since 20th February, 2023 which is 1st ever opportunity provided to any country in South Asia. The response of the citizens to get themselves registered and get enumerated through the portal is tremendous. The participation of the citizens in the census through self-enumeration portal is phenomenal as well as beyond the expectation. PBS has been striving to make the portal more user friendly on the basis of valuable feedback of the citizens and citizens are encouraged to provide their feedback and register their complaints through our toll-free number 0800-57574 for

further facilitation, assistance and suggestions.

The inauguration was followed by the brief media talk by the Chief Census Commissioner Dr Naeem uz Zafar and spokesman (PBS)/ Member SS/RM Mr. Muhammad Sarwar Gondal in which the media was briefed about the Digital Census's background, Progress till date and appreciate the involvement of all stakeholders. He appreciated the succession of self-enumeration portal and hoped that same progress & dedication will be seen during the full roll-out of enumeration activity. This Census will geo tag all structures of Pakistan that will provide framework for economic census. 92,754 Enumerators are fully motivated and engaged in door-to-door field activities which was started early today in all over Pakistan.



Islamabad
15° - 23° Clear

SERVICES

Namaz Timings

Fajr 5:14 am
Zohr 12:21 pm
Asr 4:24 pm
Maghrib 6:04 pm
Isha 7:27 pm

EMERGENCY

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

Women Police Stations

Islamabad 9222596
Rawalpindi 9270601-20

ENQUIRY

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

HOSPITALS

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

DEPARTMENTS

CDA 9221334-43
CDA 9208301-04
Met Office 9250360-6

Pakistan and Germany launch a project to strengthen Pak climate adaptation and resilience

City Reporter

ISLAMABAD :In an effort towards enhancing the country's ability to cope with the impact of climate change, particularly in vulnerable communities and sectors such as health, agriculture, and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), the German Cooperation, in collaboration with the Federal Ministry of Climate Change (MoCC), have launched the Strengthening Climate Adaptation and Resilience Project in Pakistan.

The Strengthening Climate Adaptation and Resilience (SAR) Project in Pakistan prioritises gender-inclusive and socially inclusive approaches to ensure that the project's benefits are equitably distributed among different communities, including women, youth, and other marginalized groups.

The project is funded by the

German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and is implemented by the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH.

During the launch, Mr. Syed Mujtaba Hussain, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Climate Change (MoCC), appreciated the support of the German government and highlighted that the SAR project will play an important rôle in bringing together all stakeholders from the federal and provincial level. He urged all stakeholders to work together to ensure the project's success and underlined the importance of sustainable development for Pakistan's future.

He added that the SAR project will support us in identifying Pakistan's climate change vulnerability and enable us to address the impacts of climate



change. SAR will also support us to take on board the insurance industry through the Global Risk Modelling Alliance (GRMA).
Dr. Sebastian Paust, Head

of Development Cooperation, German Embassy, Pakistan said "Pakistan's Nationally Determined Contributions outline a number of priority areas, such as strengthening early warning systems for extreme weather events, developing climate-resilient infrastructure, and improving water management and irrigation practices. Germany will support these strategic priorities towards achievement of Pakistan's NDCs through the SAR project."

Participants discussed the critical role of climate adaptation and resilience in alleviation of the impacts of climate change on vulnerable communities, ecosystems, and infrastructure. The speakers emphasized that the project's success depends on collaboration and partnerships between various stakeholders, including the government, civil society, and private sector.

6th Provincial Steering Committee reinforces a new rule of law roadmap for Balochistan

News Desk

QUETTA: The Steering Committee on the Rule of Law Roadmap (RoLR) Balochistan convened its 6th session on 28 February, 2023 in Quetta to celebrate the successful completion of the first five-year phase of reforms and launch a new chapter for the RoLR Roadmap developed for 2023-26.

During the meeting, key stakeholders renewed their commitment to advance evidence-based reforms in the rule of law sector with the aim of furthering public trust and confidence in law enforcement institutions in Balochistan.

In his opening remarks, Mr. Zahid Saleem, Additional Chief Secretary Home & Tribal Affairs, Government of Balochistan praised all institu-

tions and departments for their dedication in implementing key reforms under the roadmap. He highlighted the importance of the new five-year chapter, which will build on achievements of the previous phase to continue to strengthen rule of law, effective administration of justice and best practices for the benefit of all citizens, especially the most marginalized ones. He thanked the European Union for its financial support, as well as UNODC for their technical support.

The RoLR Roadmap has adapted a results-based methodology to inform institutional decisions and improve systematic performance. The meeting provided a convergence platform to Rule of Law institutions and development partners to deliberate on the progress of the roadmap.

Overall, the results of the first phase report an increase in the conviction rate from 20% in 2019 to 40% in 2023 for serious and violent crimes whilst the number of Under-Trial Prisoners (UTPs) reduced to 11.2% from 1122 in 2019 to 900 in 2023.

For the first time, the representatives of the Balochistan Police, Prosecution, Prisons, Levies, and Reclamation and Probation Departments presented their institutional progress against RoLR provincial set targets. Challenges and successes of criminal justice institutions to address fundamental issues through sector coordination were shared. A way forward was also discussed for the implementation of RoLR against PKR 50 million allocated by the Government of Balochistan.

The 6th Steering Committee also highlighted other key successes, including 13.5% increase in forensic case submissions and 1.11% increase in the number of female police officers in Balochistan; 5% increase in persons bailed by the Balochistan Levies Force and training of 135 Levies Investigation Officers including 7 women; Prisons Management Information System (PMIS) installed and functioning in 11 prisons; training of 153 prosecutors comprising of 88% men and 11.1% women participants; MoU signed on 5 September, 2022 between Police and Prosecution Departments to improve coordination and cooperation before, during, and after the investigations; review of the Reclamation and Probation Act and a training on Legislative Drafting.

AIOU commences final exams of int'l students from March 10

City Reporter

ISLAMABAD : Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU) is commencing final examinations of Matric, FA, and I.Com programs for international students offered in the semester autumn 2022 from March 10, 2023. These exams will be held online, and the university has done all the arrangements for these online exams. Students' accounts have been created on agahi LMS portal. Date sheet and instructions have been uploaded on the university website (www.aiou.edu.pk).

Moreover, admissions in the second phase of semester spring 2023 are open for national and international students. Programs offered in this phase include Associate degree in arts (BA), associate degree in commerce (B.Com), BBA, 2.5 and 4 year BS programs, 1.5, 2.5 and 4 year B.Ed and post-graduate diplomas. These programs are being offered through online management system and all the academic activities of these programs will be held online.

It is pertinent to mention here that the university is providing quality education to international students, so far more than 450 students from 35 countries have been enrolled including students from the USA, Africa, United Kingdom, Canada, Australia, Japan, China, New Zealand, Malaysia, Bangladesh, etc. For more details, students can contact International Collaboration and Exchange Office at +92519057165, +92519250175, or email at overseas@aiou.edu.pk

Bahawalpur Literary Festival concludes with 'Mushaira'

News Desk

BAHAWALPUR :On the third day of the Bahawalpur Literary and Cultural Festival, book launch, film screening, RuBaru, media conclave and Grand Mahfil-e-Mushaira were held at the Islamia University of Bahawalpur. Syed Noor, Nasir Adeb, Amna Mufti, Nazir Leghari, Sheema Kirmani, Rizwan Razi along with the host Sajjad Parvez took a tour on the rise and fall of Pakistani cinema in the media conclave on the theme of Pakistani film industry yesterday and today at the Islamia University of Bahawalpur. The speakers hoped that the Pakistani film industry would regain its lost position in the modern era. There was an interesting face-to-face discussion between Sheema Kirmani and Amna Mufti about fine arts and performing arts in Pakistan.

Eminent analyst Mujahid Bareilvi discussed the back-



ground of Habib Jalib's revolutionary poem "Lazam Hai K Hum Bhi Dekhian gy" along with Sheema Kirmani and Sheema Kirmani performed on this famous poem. Syed Tabish Alwari presided over the Grand Mahfil-e-Mushaira and Umbreen Hussain Ambar, Aqeel Abbas Jafari, Azhar Farag, Gul Nukhiz Akhtar, Mansoor Afaq, Agha Sadaf Mehdi and other famous poets participated in the Mushaira.

Meanwhile, the ongoing Baha-

walpur Literary and Cultural Festival at the Islamia University of Bahawalpur, with book exhibition, agricultural and industrial exhibition, handicrafts exhibition, flower exhibition and colorful food courts, is going on and the whole campus is in the mood of a festival.

Yesterday, Sajjad Pervez talked about the life and struggle of the Vice-Chancellor in a RuBaru session with Prof. Dr. Athar Mahboob. On this occasion, Prof. Dr. Hameed

Raza Siddiqui expressed his views at the launch of the book written by Prof. Dr. Muhammad Shahzad Rana on the Vice-Chancellor. Last night, Wahab Bugti, Zahoor Lohar, Arif Mulghani, Mohan Bhagat, Shaaban Chacharr and other regional artists performed in a wonderful concert of regional music. A theater group from Multan and a university theater troupe showcased their art in the theater performance at the amphitheater.

Delegation from ABL Calls on IIUI President



City Reporter

ISLAMABAD: A team of Allied Bank Limited (ABL) called on Dr. Hathal Homoud Alotaibi, President International Islamic University (IIU) at his office and handed over a draft of Rs 1.00 Million as part of the endowment fund jointly established by both sides for the scholarships of the students.

As per already signed MoU between both sides, so far eight students have been sponsored through this Endowment Fund. Degree duration of 7 students is completed and degree of one student is in progress. During the meeting, issues pertaining to mutual interest especially bilateral cooperation were discussed. The meeting was attended by Prof. Dr. Hathal Hamoud Alotaibi, President IIUI, Prof. Dr. Ahmed Shuja Vice President (R&E), Mr. Shahid Amir Group Chief Islamic Banking Group ABL, Mr. Shakir Akbar Regional Head North ABL, Ms Nuzhat Zareen Director (UAFA) and Mr. Noor Hussain In-Charge Finance.

Speaking on the occasion, IIUI President hailed the cooperation of Allied Bank adding the comment that education is the key to success of the country that must have contribution from all sectors. IIUI President apprised the delegation that university is focused to produce skilled graduates inculcated with Islamic values and adequate awareness regarding the needs of the market. Dr. Hathal while appreciating the potential of the Pakistani nation said that Pakistani human resource is famous for its potential and hard work across the world. Talking about the needy students, IIUI President said they have the potential to shine, its obligation of the educational institutions and rest of the sectors of society to be a source of their right to higher education. He vowed that university shall remain committed to provide ideal learning milieu to the students.

Bank Alfalah partners with Karachi Relief Trust



News Desk

ISLAMABAD: Bank Alfalah, the biggest corporate donor for the flood-affected communities, has partnered with Karachi Relief Trust (KRT) to fund the construction of low-cost sustainable housing for PKR 50 million. Bank Alfalah came to the forefront with a strategic plan for redeveloping communities in a viable, equitable and financially inclusive way.

The collaboration with KRT is focused on providing cost-effective housing solutions in the regions affected by floods. Through this association with Bank Alfalah, KRT intends to reconstruct two clusters of villages that were ravaged by the floods. The two clusters will consist of 70 homes each, with an estimated cost of PKR 350,000 per house.

The signing of the agreement took place at Bank Alfalah's Karachi Head Office, with the presence of its top leadership and senior management, including Atif Bajwa- President and CEO, Faisal Farooq Khan-Chief Human Resource Officer, Adnan Asdar-Founder and Trustee and Khayam Husain from KRT, among other notables.

First ever Pakistani Pavilion inaugurated at Eurasia Summit in Istanbul

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Under the auspices of Association of Private Sector Universities Pakistan (APSUP), during Eurasian Higher Education Summit (EURI) in Istanbul, first ever Pakistani Pavilion was inaugurated. During this 3-day event, 34 members Pakistani delegation from 20 Pakistani universities would brief about the various academic programs and explore opportunities of collaboration, student & faculty exchange and joint academic programs.

Haldun Goktas, Deputy President Higher Education Council, Prof. Dr. Mustafa Aydin President Euras, Prof. Dr. Muhammad Iqbal Choudhary Coordinator General COMSTECH, Chairman APSUP Prof. Dr. Ch. Abdul Rehman, Nauman Aslam Consul General Pakistan Istanbul along with Pakistani delegation inaugurated Pakistani Pavilion.

Speaking on the occasion, they lauded efforts of APSUP for undertaking practical steps to promote positive image of Pakistan at this important international forum. Prof. Dr. Ch. Abdul Rehman extended thanks to all the 34 members of Pakistani delegation for their cooperation and participation. University of Lahore, Superior University, University of Faisalabad, University of Sialkot, University of Management and Technology and Institute of Business Management have set up booths at Pakistani Pavilion.

During the visit to Turkiye, Pakistani delegation also expressed solidarity with earthquake affected people. The Pakistani delegation was comprised of Mian Imran Masood Vice Chancellor University of South Asia, Dr. Abdul Basit President Preston University, Prof. Dr. Waseem Qazi President Iqra University, Muhammad Anwar Dar Chairman Gift

University, Prof. Dr. Sumaira Rehman Rector Superior University, Prof. Dr. Asif Raza Rector University of Management & Technology, Mr. Khalid Amin Chancellor Indus University, Dr. Aurangzeb Khan vice chancellor Shaheed Benazir Bhutto Dewan University, Asim Nazir Rector Institute of South Punjab, Haider Amin Chairman Board of Governors University of Faisalabad, Faisal Manzoor Chairman Board of Governors University of Sialkot, Muhammad Rehan Younas, President International Institute of Science, Art & Technology, Prof. Dr. Shahid Qureshi Rector Gift University, Murtaza Noor Executive Director APSUP, Ms. Ayesha Zahid Executive Director Superior University, Nabhan Shah Karim Head of Marketing & Communication, Institute of Business Management and representatives of University of Lahore, Iqra University and University of Sialkot.



Group Chairman/Chief Editor: **Almas Ayoub Sabir**
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 Bureau Chief Lahore: **Syed Afraz Ali Nazish**
 (afrazalishah@gmail.com)
Islamabad Office: Rose Plaza, I-8 Markaz.
Karachi office: Flat No.C.3.A.One Comfort, Block No 11.
 Gulshan-e-Iqbal, Main Rashid Minhas Road.
Lahore Office: 7-E,Samanberg, Johar Town.
Email: spokesmanislamabad@gmail.com
Whatsapp: 0346-5008408

The Earthquake in Türkiye and Syria Is a Crisis Within a Crisis

David Miliband

The consequences of the 7.8 magnitude earthquake that struck Eastern Türkiye and Northern Syria on Monday, February 6 are devastating. The International Rescue Committee's staff on the ground are reporting of the immense human suffering and astounding levels of destruction.

Not only has the earthquake caused more than 46,000 deaths and injured over 100,000 people, it has worsened an already dire situation for Syrian families living through crisis for nearly 12 years. Since 2012, the IRC's 1,000 local staff members inside Syria have been responding to community needs in the country's northwest and northeast—providing health care, protection services, early childhood development programs, and promoting economic recovery.

Syria faces a multitude of challenges that make it one of the world's most complex humanitarian emergencies. In Northwest Syria, where 4.4 million people live, the security situation remains volatile, which has made humanitarian access challenging even prior to the earthquake. Civilians in these areas are living in perpetual conflict zones and have witnessed atrocities. Many live with life-changing physical and emotional wounds.

Under these conditions, the earthquake has created a crisis within a crisis.

A crisis that has faded from the headlines and that urgently demands our renewed attention and long-term commitment.

There are three compounding factors which must be addressed as this response continues:

Displacement
 Since 2011, around 7 million Syrians have been internally displaced due to conflict. Now, tens of thousands are estimated to be newly displaced by the earthquake and desperately require shelter and safety. Many of these families have already been displaced multiple times over the last decade.

Life-threatening conditions
 Only one day before the earthquake occurred, over two-thirds of Syria's 22 million population, required humanitarian aid—more than at any time since the conflict began. In the aftermath, needs are soaring.

Temperatures have plummeted to below zero in recent weeks. Most people don't have somewhere safe or warm to sleep at night. Few are in tents and many are sleeping outside using fires to keep themselves warm.

800,000 people in northwest Syria were already living in makeshift buildings without adequate sewage, electricity, or water supply before the earthquake. As the number of casualties continues to rise, the IRC is warning of a potential second disaster for survivors, if they don't receive the means to live.

The health care system has collapsed and is now unable to cope. Following

years of conflict, hospitals in northern Syria are severely overstretched. Damage to roads, and the current weather conditions, also make access to health services increasingly precarious.

The IRC is calling on the international community to urgently increase funding to ensure that families can access lifesaving medical assistance, clean water, food, and shelter.

Humanitarian access
 Help from the outside world is needed now more than ever. However, the vast majority of aid can only reach people through delivery across the Syria-Türkiye border. We know roads and infrastructure, like bridges, were damaged by the earthquake, which makes it even more challenging for supplies to reach people.

Even before the earthquake, the humanitarian situation was dire in northwest Syria, with insufficient access to meet the rising needs. Now, the devastation has made increasing access to these communities by any means possible of paramount importance.

The IRC has consistently argued that cross-border assistance is a vital lifeline with no viable alternatives. We have also argued that this assistance be expanded beyond one crossing point to ensure the appropriate flow of people, equipment and supplies into northwest Syria to meet increasing humanitarian needs.

We welcome the announcement that two additional crossing points, which are currently open for commercial shipments, are now opened for UN cross-border

assistance for the next three months. We hope that this will ensure faster facilitation and scaling up of much needed aid to northwest Syria. However, the impact of this earthquake will be felt for far longer than three months, and we will continue to call for all viable pathways for aid delivery to be expanded and extended.

Urgent global call to action
 The IRC remains committed and is scaling up an integrated response in both countries—thanks to the courage of our colleagues and the support of our partners in the region.

To prevent a secondary humanitarian disaster—including for those who were already suffering before the earthquake—the IRC is calling on the international community to increase funding to help people survive, recover and rebuild their lives. It is critical that aid gets to the most impacted areas and reaches people in need wherever they are, especially in Northwest Syria, where communities are at risk of being left behind.

Gulf nations have mobilized to provide relief supplies, organize campaigns raising over \$385 million, and airlift emergency services to both countries. These remarkable efforts must continue in the post shock phase as recovery and rehabilitation work begins in all areas affected.

The scale of this tragedy requires not only long-term funding and unfettered humanitarian access—but also sustained global solidarity—having once been forgotten.

Achievement

A team of young Pakistani agricultural scientists at the National Research Center of Intercropping (NRCI), the Islamia University of Bahawalpur (IUB) are researching strip intercropping technologies to help their country shrink the import bill of food commodities, especially soybean.

It was remarkable that the ongoing work there originated from their collaboration with China, but has been optimized specially for Pakistan based on the country's realities, which has been a shining model of Sino-Pak cooperation in both scientific research and educational exchange, China Economic Net (CEN) reported on Wednesday.

Since 2018, Dr Muhammad Ali Raza, a post-doc who graduated from Sichuan Agricultural University (SAU), China, has started to promote China's maize-soybean strip intercropping technology in Pakistan with his professor Yang Wenyu's support and guidance, which has received a good response, particularly from local industrialists and progressive farmers in the recent years.

After years of hard work, he has become a productive agronomist and expert in intercropping research in Pakistan.

Under the vision of the IUB Vice Chancellor Prof. Athar Mahboob, the NRCI was inaugurated on August 11, 2021, to introduce strip intercropping technologies in Pakistan's agriculture to improve crop yields and soil productivity. Now, Dr Muhammad Ali Raza acts as the Director of the centre, leading intercropping technology's popularization in Pakistan.

Following the slogan of "Think Globally, Act Locally", Sino-Pak cooperation is a special feature of NRCI. The centre has signed multi-dimensional MoUs with Sichuan Agricultural University (SAU), Gansu Academy of Agricultural Sciences (GAAS), and Shandong Academy of Agricultural Sciences (SAAS) to exchange resources, researchers and students, and also has initiated collaboration with the National Soybean Center (NSC), Agro-ecology and Conservation Lab, and Molecular Biology Lab at Nanjing Agricultural University (NAU).

It's learned that the research at NRCI on the development and optimization of maize-soybean strip intercropping technology using water-saving technologies like drip irrigation is sponsored entirely by GAAS. Later on, GAAS will also help in the transfer and dissemination of the developed technology in Pakistan.

In addition, presently, there are eight researchers in total at NRCI including four agronomists, two breeders, two soil scientists, and one crop modeller, among which five graduated from top-notch Chinese agricultural universities including Sichuan Agricultural University and Nanjing Agricultural University from Chinese scholarships for their PhD studies.

Having been well groomed and trained in the strip-intercropping research and molecular physiology of the crops, they are applying what they learned in China to developing Pakistan's agriculture sector.

"Learning from Chinese experience through bilateral cooperation would surely train and groom Pakistanis to fight against the current economic calamity. Particularly, the support of China in agricultural education and training would surely boost agricultural productivity in Pakistan, which will not only stabilize the economic condition of the country but also provide a nearby and cheaper food source to China that could reduce food security pressure on China," Dr Muhammad Ali Raza said with the vision of achieving a win-win situation via Sino-Pak agricultural cooperation.



Amjad Rasmi

UNESCO's Response to Floods in Pakistan

Dr. Murtaza Mughal

Heavy monsoon rainfall caused widespread flooding in Pakistan resulting in significant loss of life, livelihoods, and shelter. The natural disaster also severely damaged cultural heritage sites across the country. Soon after the visit of United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres and the Director of UNESCO Islamabad, Youssef Filali-Meknassi, UNESCO mobilized \$50,000 USD from the World Heritage Emergency Assistance and the Heritage Emergency Fund to assist in the needs assessment and recovery of cultural sites and displaced cultural professionals in Sindh, Balochistan, and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

Under the Heritage Emergency Fund, UNESCO Islamabad is undertaking a detailed needs assessment of tangible and intangible cultural heritage in selected flood-affected districts of the country, to identify the most severely affected cultural professionals in need of rehabilitation.

In October 2022, the Post-Disaster Needs Assessment (PDNA) was launched under the leadership of the Ministry of Planning, Development and Special Initiatives. UNESCO Islamabad led the Culture Sector analysis, with technical assistance by the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation (AICS), World Bank and Asian Development Bank. This is the first time Culture has been analyzed as a separate sector for

a PDNA in Pakistan. The integration of culture in the post-disaster recovery strategy for Pakistan is a welcome step towards effective and sustainable rehabilitation.

Under the World Heritage Centre Emergency Assistance, UNESCO is conducting damage assessment of the World Heritage Sites of Makli and Moenjodaro in Sindh, in collaboration with the Culture, Tourism, Antiquities, and Archives Department of the Government of Sindh. In October 2022, a two-member team comprising Mr. Jawad Aziz, National Professional Officer from the UNESCO Islamabad Office, and Mr. Thierry Joffroy, a consultant and conservation expert on earthen architecture visited Moenjodaro (Larkana, Sindh) to assess the impact of the rainfall, and meet local authorities to plan the next steps for stabilization and recovery of the site. The team identified that rainwater drainage systems were unable to handle the increased volume of heavy rainfall during the monsoon season, resulting in extensive structural damage. The initial visit identified urgent short-term measures to ensure stabilization against further damage, and long-term interventions to protect the site against new risks created by the rainfall.

In January 2023, the UNESCO team comprising of Ms. Cristina Menegazzi, Culture and Heritage Expert and Mr. Jawad Aziz, National Professional Officer accompanied consultant Mr. Thierry Joffroy for a second visit to Moenjodaro, to guide the Moenjodaro management team on stabilization of the affected

structures. Alongside government officials, students from selected universities were also invited to gain valuable field experience in conservation methods.

The UNESCO team inspected the circular drain around the site which has been blocked with silt, mud and wild growth at many places and not functioning properly. The team also visited the conservation laboratory on site, where water and soil are tested before being used for conservation work. The UNESCO Team also visited the Great Bath to examine the tunnel drain of the Bath which was damaged due to the runoff water coming from the southern side and recommended that only the wall should be stabilized to prevent further damage at the moment. Archaeological records must be consulted to understand the original structure before any long-term restoration work is carried out.

Later in January, the Director of UNESCO Islamabad Mr. Youssef Filali-Meknassi and Ms. Mariam Farooqi, National Project Officer, visited the Makli Necropolis (Thatta, Sindh) for an initial assessment of the damages caused by heavy rainfall, and the urgent stabilization measures carried out by the site management team. Detailed needs assessment and identification of short- and long-term measures for the recovery and strengthening of Makli against future natural disasters will be carried out by Ms. Cristina Menegazzi, UNESCO Culture and Heritage Expert, and Mr. Rand Eppich, consultant Conservation Architect, and the site management team in March 2023

Tobacco industry misuses CSR to trap our youth

Sanauallah Ghumman

Already in Pakistan, a large number of people, especially the youth, were suffering from the deadly effects of tobacco, and the tobacco industry has brought new and more destructive products into the market. We must do everything possible to protect our youth from these tobacco industry tactics. This was said by the speakers while addressing an international conference organized by Pakistan National Heart Association (PANA) on tobacco industry's advance tactics for deceiving youth and policy makers, which was organized at a local hotel in Islamabad. The Chief Guest of the event was Member Legislative Assembly Zahra Wadood Fatemi. Among the guests were PANA President Major General (retd) Masood ur Rahman Kiaani, Campaign for Tobacco Free Kids Country Head, Malik Imran Ahmed, Executive Director of Rawalpindi Institute of Cardiology Dr. Anjum Jalal, National Commission on the Rights of Child Chairperson Afshan Tahseen Bajwa, representative of PIDE, Colonel Dr. Shakeel Ahmed Mirza, President of Pakistan Federal Union of Journalists Afzal Butt, Health Economist Ijaz Akbar and a large number of civil society, youth and journalists participated. The event was hosted by PANA Secretary General Sanauallah Ghumman.

Ms. Zahra Fatemi said that we have to protect our children and youth who are the future of the nation from the ravages of tobacco. PANA is working for a great cause which every segment of the society should stand with. General Masood ur Rehman Kiaani said that PANA has been trying to save its countrymen from heart and related diseases for the last 40 years. Smoking is one of the leading causes of heart disease, cancer and many other diseases. We are working on a mission to educate the nation about the dangers of tobacco. Malik Imran Ahmed, Country Head of Tobacco Free Kids said that tobacco has already badly taken hold of our young generation. Now there are new products in the market in the form of Velo and heating tobacco products. These products are marketed in very attractive packaging and are available in many flavors. We reject the legislation of these items. Dr. Anjum Jalal while talking about the harms

of tobacco said it is one of the major causes of heart and many other diseases. He said that there has been an alarming increase in heart diseases among children and one of the main reasons for this is parental smoking and second hand smoking. Colonel Shakeel Ahmad Mirza said that Pakistan has become a hotbed of diseases at present, one of the main reasons for which is the availability of tobacco products at very low prices, instead of the government removing tobacco products from the reach of the public, it legalizes new products. Afshan Tahsin Bajwa said that the biggest target of tobacco industry is children. The industry pays special attention to educational institutions so that more and more of their children can be accustomed to it. In stores they are placed exclusively with items that interest children and youth. There is no warning sign on them that these products are harmful to health. Ejaz Akbar said that the industry claims that it pays taxes of Rs 114 billion annually, while the annual expenditure on tobacco-related diseases is estimated at more than Rs 615 billion. This proves that the revenue generated by the tobacco industry is negligible compared to the costs incurred on the diseases caused by it. Afzal Butt said that PANA's efforts to save the youth from the dangers of tobacco are commendable and we are with PANA at the front line. Pakistan's journalist community rejects the legalization of new tobacco products. Dr. Zia said that there are more than 2.2 million people in Pakistan who are addicted to smoking.

Sanauallah Ghumman said that every day around 1200 children start smoking. PANA is in effort to educate people on the harms of smoking and reduce its use. The industry has now brought new heating tobacco products to the market in collaboration with the government. Now it has been legalized. Smoking is the first step towards drug addiction. We reject the heating tobacco Products legislation. Today we jointly demand government along with health professionals, students, journalists and other segments of society to reverse its legislation on heating tobacco products and do not give priority to tobacco industry interests over the health of the children.

In the end, PANA Executive Vice President Qayyum Sahib thanked the participants and said that we are grateful to you for always raising the voice of PANA.

CARs envoys eye huge trade potential with Pakistan

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) opened CARs and Azerbaijan Facilitation Desk to help its members in promoting trade and exports with Central Asian Republics and Azerbaijan. The Desk was inaugurated by H.E. Atadjan Movlamov Dean of Diplomatic Corps CARs and Ambassador of Turkmenistan, H.E. Khazar Farhadov Ambassador of Azerbaijan, H.E. Yerzhan Kistafin Ambassador of Kazakhstan, H.E. Ismatullo Nasredin Ambassador of Tajikistan and H.E. Ulanbek Totuivae Ambassador of Kyrgyzstan during their visit to ICCI.



Speaking on the occasion H.E. Atadjan Movlamov Dean of Diplomatic Corps CARs and Ambassador of Turkmenistan congratulated ICCI for opening a Facilitation Desk for CARs and Azerbaijan as it would boost Pakistan's trade ties with these countries. He said that ICCI should set up a web portal on its websites for CARs to help private sectors of Pakistan and CARs to share business proposals with each other. H.E. Khazar Farhadov, Ambassador of Azerbaijan said that the geographical location of Pakistan is special for CARs

and Azerbaijan as these landlocked countries can access many markets through Pakistani ports. He said Azerbaijan would launch more direct flights with Pakistan to promote people to people and B2B ties.

H.E. Yerzhan Kistafin Ambassador of Kazakhstan said that the ICCI Facilitation Desk would be a great milestone to promote trade ties. In April the direct flights between Almaty and Lahore and in May between Almaty and Karachi

will start.

H.E. Ulanbek Totuivae Ambassador of Kyrgyzstan said that his country is keen to promote strong economic ties with Pakistan and said that this Facilitation Desk would help in achieving this goal. He said that his country will organize the Investment and Business Forum and invited the ICCI delegation to participate in it.

H.E. Ismatullo Nasredin Ambassador of Tajikistan termed the Facilitation

Desk a very good initiative to promote Pakistan's business relations with CARs and Azerbaijan.

Speaking on the occasion, Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (ICCI) said that Central Asian Republics (CARs) and Azerbaijan are estimated to be over 90-billion-dollar market with huge potential for business and investment, however, Pakistan's trade with these countries is not up to the mark.

He said that Pakistan can export many products to these countries including textiles, leather, pharmaceuticals, agricultural products, electrical appliances, communications, machinery & equipment and various services. He said that these countries import a large variety of machinery and equipment from various sources, and Pakistan can become a major exporter of these high value products to them. Similarly, Pakistan can import energy and other products from

these countries. He said that Pakistan also provides shortest routes through its ports to the landlocked CARs for international trade. He hoped that the CARs and Azerbaijan Facilitation Desk at ICCI would help business community in identifying new areas of promoting trade and investment with these countries.

Faad Waheed, Senior Vice President ICCI said that Pakistan is a gateway for CARs. He said that Pakistan can import energy from CARs and export many products to them that they need.

Khalid Iqbal Malik Group Leader ICCI stressed that the work on CASA 1000 and TAPI projects should be expedited for their completion that would bring many benefits to Pakistan's economy.

Zafar Bakhtawari, former President ICCI also spoke on the occasion and highlighted many areas that offer good potential for business collaboration between Pakistan and CARs & Azerbaijan. He stressed the need of regional cooperation and development as the bilateral relations are important, but real economic development is only possible by the regional cooperation among Pakistan, CARs & Azerbaijan.

Vietnamese envoy calls for urgent steps to boost bilateral trade

Mian Rashid Asghar

FAISALABAD: Ambassador of Vietnam to Pakistan, Mr. Nguyen Tien Pong, has said that there are vast opportunities to increase bilateral trade between the two countries, which need immediate steps to take advantage of accelerating businesses. He was talking during a meeting with Faisalabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FCCI) President Dr. Khurram Tariq. He said that there is a need for direct contacts between businessmen of Pakistan and Vietnam. He asked the president of the Faisalabad Chamber to provide him with a list of businessmen who want to do business with Vietnam so that he can get in touch with the businessmen in Vietnam. Mentioning the trade opportunities between the two countries. He further said that Vietnam can export cotton to Pakistan while Pakistan can



meet Vietnam's yarn and fabric needs. He elaborated conclusively that cooperation between the two countries can also be done in the areas of value addition for which coordinated efforts will be made. He also emphasized on creating facilities at the government level to increase mutual relations between the two countries and said that he will provide all possible

cooperation in the exchange of delegations.

Faisalabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry President Dr. Khurram Tariq told them about the economic strength of Faisalabad and said that Faisalabad Chamber is always ready to increase bilateral trade with Vietnam. He also invited the Ambassador of Vietnam to visit the Faisalabad Chamber

so that he can arrange a delegation of Vietnamese businessmen after assessing the potential of Faisalabad for himself. He also assured the Vietnamese ambassador of providing the list of leading trade organizations of Faisalabad. Faisalabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry Senior Vice President Dr. Sajjad Arshad was also present on this occasion.

Petition for EU GSP Plus status to be launched in earnest: FCCI

Mian Rashid Asghar



FAISALABAD: Pakistan must undertake an aggressive lobbying initiative for the extension of GSP Plus status after its expiry by the end of this year, said Mr. Thomas Seiler Deputy Head of Mission EU. In a meeting with President Faisalabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (FCCI) Dr. Khurram Tariq, he said that GSP Plus had played a key role in stabilizing Pak economy but Russian attack on Ukraine has dented the EU economy which was still under acute depression.

He said that Pakistan was equally disturbed with the devastating rains and floods and still a major chunk of its population was lying helpless under the open sky. He said that this factor may play a major role in the extension of GSP Plus but it may be for only 2-3 years instead of ten years.

TTP wants to push govt out of KP to establish Sharia: US Report



Raja Furqan Ahmed

WASHINGTON: A US State Department report has claimed that outlawed Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) wants to push the government of Pakistan out of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) by waging a terrorist campaign against the military and state to impose Sharia laws. According to the 2021 Country Reports on Terrorism, the TTP uses the tribal belt along the Afghanistan-Pakistan border to train and deploy its operatives. The report further added that TTP draws ideological guidance from Al Qaeda, while elements of AQ rely in part on TTP for safe haven in the Pashtun areas along the Afghan-Pakistan border. "This arrangement has given TTP access to both AQ's global terrorist network and its members' operational expertise." The report also names major terrorist groups that focused on conducting attacks in Pakistan, including TTP, the Balochistan Liberation Army (BLA) and the militant Islamic State-Khorasan group (IS-K). The report on terrorism notes that Pakistan "experienced significant terrorist activity" during the year in review, i.e. 2021. Underlining the link between terrorism and lack of economic activities, the report points out that "the United States provides assistance to support trade and economic growth" in Pakistan.

The US assistance to Pakistan includes partnering with US businesses, civil society, and the regions bordering Afghanistan. "This assistance is intended to improve the lives of the Pakistani people and support US objectives," the report explains. The report also acknowledges that Pakistan took steps in 2021 to counter terror financing and to restrain some India-focused militant groups. Pakistan reviewed and revised its 2015 National Action Plan (NAP) to counter terrorism, reducing the NAP from a 20-point plan to 14 key points. But the report complains that Pakistan made meagre progress on the most difficult aspects — specifically its pledge to dismantle all terrorist organisations without delay or discrimination. The report identifies IS-K as another group which poses a significant threat to Pakistan and is composed primarily of former TTP members, the Afghan Taliban and the Islamic Movement of Uzbekistan.

It is estimated to have between 3,000 and 5,000 fighters and has claimed responsibility for attacks on civilians and government officials in Pakistan. The report notes that Pakistan-focused terrorist groups continue to conduct attacks against Pakistani military and civilian targets. The report also mentions Pakistan's pledge to "ensure that no armed militias are allowed to function in the country," but complains that attackers continued to operate from Pakistani soil in 2021. The report identifies the Haqqani Network, Lashkar-e-Tayyiba (LeT), and Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM) as the groups that carry out such attacks. The report claims that although "Pakistan took some steps in 2021 to counter terror financing and to restrain some India-focused militant groups, authorities did not take sufficient action to dismantle them".

Dr. Rubina awarded Dame Commander of the British Empire

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: Dr. Rubina Shah MBE, the first British citizen of Pakistani origin, was awarded the title of Dame Commander of the British Empire for her services to the community. Dr. Rubina Shah previously served as High Sheriff of Greater Manchester and Deputy Lieutenant. Today, her statue was unveiled at Manchester Central Library, which was attended by the Mayor of Greater Manchester, Andy Barnum, Lord Mayor of Manchester, Donna Loadfold-Iraq, Consul General Jawad Al-Jubouri, Dean of Manchester Roger, Deputy Lieutenant in Greater Manchester Diane Hawkins, Deputy Mayor Stockport Council Linda, Deputy Leader Manchester Council Lutfur Rahman took special part.



Mayor of Greater Manchester Andy Barnum said that Rubina Shah has done immense services for the community, especially the youth, in Greater Manchester. He further said that a statue of someone should have been installed in the library as a reward for community services, that person

is Rubina Shah. Consul General of Iraq Jawad Al-Jubouri said that Rubina Shah is an educated woman and has done immense service to the community of Greater Manchester. Deputy Leader of Manchester Council Lutfur Rehman said that Rubina Shah is the first female British citizen

of Pakistani origin who was awarded the title of Dame (Commander of the British Empire) and we are proud of her. Deputy Mayor Stockport Council Linda said that only Rubina deserved this award because she is a hardworking woman. Deputy Lt. In Dean said that I was not overjoyed when Rubina Shah was named for this title. She was rightfully entitled to it. Dean of Manchester Roger also paid tribute to Rubina Shah for her community service in Greater Manchester and at the UK level.

Rubina Shah, the first British citizen of Pakistani origin, to be made a Commander of the British Empire (Dame) and to have a statue installed in Manchester's Central Library is a role model for women to move forward in all walks of life.

The President of the Republic of Uzbekistan received the US delegation

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: On March 1, 2023, the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev received a delegation of the United States of America headed by Secretary of State Anthony Blinken. A wide range of topical issues on the agenda of bilateral relations in the political, trade, economic, investment, educational, cultural and humanitarian spheres, as well as key aspects of regional cooperation were considered. At the beginning of the conversation, Secretary of State Anthony Blinken conveyed greetings and best wishes of the President of the United States Joe Biden to the Head of Uzbekistan. The resolute commitment of the United States to support the independence, sovereignty and

territorial integrity of Uzbekistan was once again emphasized. The high assessment was given and full support was expressed for the irreversible democratic transformations and socio-economic reforms being carried out in Uzbekistan. The great progress in the field of ensuring human rights and gender equality, combating forced labor, reforms in the field of freedom of speech and media support, the development of civil society institutions and many other areas was particularly noted. During the meeting, the high level of Uzbek-American multifaceted relations was noted with great satisfaction. The importance of further development of full-scale cooperation was confirmed, including in the framework of promoting an effective Dialogue of strate-

gic partnership and continuing productive exchanges at different levels. Particular attention is paid to increasing trade, economic, investment and innovation cooperation, expanding the presence of leading American companies in the Uzbek market, implementing cooperation projects, primarily in high-tech industries. There are ample opportunities for activating cultural and humanitarian ties, including programs in the field of learning English by the younger generation and training qualified teachers in Uzbekistan. The sides exchanged views on the most important issues of regional cooperation. The practical results of the ministerial meeting in the format of "US and Central Asian countries" (C5+1) were positively assessed. Such areas as promoting

sustainable development of the countries of the region, improving the business environment and investment climate, developing green energy, and implementing joint educational programs were highlighted. The great importance is attached to the upcoming meeting of the Trade & Investment Framework Agreement (TIFA), which will be held this month in the city of Samarkand. The issues of broad international cooperation in the peaceful settlement in Afghanistan were also discussed. A unanimous opinion was expressed on the inadmissibility of the escalation of the situation and the expansion of the humanitarian crisis in this country, the need to actively use the UN platform to develop an algorithm for solving existing problems, as well as the importance of supporting



regional infrastructure projects to promote peace and restore the Afghan economy.

Bull & Bears
PSX 100-Share
Index Fluctuation

Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index	
Current	Prev. Close
40,510.37	40,510.37
Day's High	Day's Low:
40,539.87	40,029.72
Index Value	Change
8,705,597,593	-97.60
Percentage	Time
-0.24%	1 Mar, 2023 5:00 pm

Europe: FTSE 100 Index	
Index Value	Change
7,914.93	+38.65
Percentage	Time
+0.49%	1 Mar, 4:35 pm GMT

USA: Dow Jones Industrial Average	
Index Value	Change
32,722.42	+65.72
Percentage	Time
+0.20%	1 Mar, 11:49 am GMT-5

Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average	
Index Value	Change
27,516.53	+70.97
Percentage	Time
+0.26%	1 Mar, 3:15 pm GMT+9

Open Market Forex Rates

Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	174.5	176.9
Bahrain Dinar	692.6	700.6
Canadian Dollar	193.2	195.4
China Yuan	37.46	37.86
Danish Krone	37.03	37.43
Euro	279	281.8
Hong Kong Dollar	33.24	33.59
Indian Rupee	3.14	3.25
Japanese Yen	2.06	2.11
Kuwaiti Dinar	849	858
Malaysian Ringgit	58.2	58.8
New Zealand \$	160.34	162.34
Norwegians Krone	25.12	25.42
Omani Riyal	678	686
Qatari Riyal	71.47	72.17
Saudi Riyal	70.8	71.5
Singapore Dollar	191.5	193.5
Swedish Korona	24.98	25.28
Swiss Franc	277.45	279.95
Thai Bhat	7.43	7.58
U.A.E Dirham	74.6	75.3
UK Pound Sterling	317	320
US Dollar	271	274

Prime Minister himself should monitor the situation: Mian Zahid Hussain

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 Wednesday said why the prices of essentials are increasing across the country if there are ample stocks in the country.

He said that people are already worried about rising inflation, recession, and unemployment and their anxiety and agitation are increasing due to general inflation as well as artificial inflation.

Mian Zahid Hussain said that it is the administration's responsibility to stop the profiteers



but their so-called success is limited to newspaper reports.

Talking to the business community, the veteran business leader said that Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's efforts to stabilize the prices of important commodities and control inflation are commendable and it is the duty of his team to make the successful.

The business leader said that inflation in Pakistan has reached 27.6% while there are chances of it reaching 35%. Strict administrative action will have to be taken along with an abundant supply of commodities so that the hardships of the common man could be reduced to some extent.

He said that there is a need for a vigorous clean-up operation across the country

to discourage hoarders. Better results can be obtained if the system of demand and supply throughout the country is closely monitored and action is taken against the concerned officers where there is a disturbance.

Mian Zahid Hussain said that the officers who are the facilitators of profiteers and hoarders should be severely punished so that this collusion can be stopped and the practice of robbing the public can be stopped.

He further said that cheap markets should be set up across the country and instead of subsidizing utility stores, the amount of the Benazir Income Support Program should be increased substantially so that the inflation situation can be normalized and the Prime Minister himself monitor the situation.

Pak-Qatar Family Takaful partners with Takaful Bazaar to promote Takaful products

Bureau Report

KARACHI: Pak-Qatar Family Takaful has partnered with Takaful Bazaar as this partnership aims to promote and offer Shariah Compliant products as well as to smooth the customer handling journey via technology enablement.

The partnership with Takaful Bazaar will enable Pak-Qatar Family Takaful to expand its range of Shariah-compliant products and reach a wider audience. Takaful Bazaar is a digital platform that provides customers with access to a variety of Takaful products and services from multiple providers. By partnering with Takaful Bazaar, Pak-Qatar Family Takaful can leverage its technology and reach customers who may not have been aware of its offerings previously.

Furthermore, the use of technology will enable Pak-Qatar Family Takaful to streamline its customer handling journey, making it easier and more



convenient for customers to access its products and services. This includes features such as online applications, real-time customer support, and digital claims processing.

The agreement signing took place between Mr. Azeem Pirani, CEO - Pak-Qatar Family Takaful and Mr. Mustafa Rehman and Hassan R. Muhammadi, Co-founders - Takaful Bazaar in the presence

of Mr. Zeeshan Haider, Head of Alternate Distribution and BancaTakaful - Pak-Qatar Family Takaful.

Speaking at the occasion, Mr. Azeem Pirani, CEO - Pak-Qatar Family Takaful, said, "We are excited to collaborate with Takaful Bazaar to provide innovative and affordable family Takaful products that cater to the diverse needs of our customers in Pakistan.

We believe that our expertise, combined with Takaful Bazaar's technology-driven approach, will help us achieve our shared goal of expanding financial protection to a wider audience."

Speaking at the event, Mr. Mustafa Rehman & Hassan R. Muhammadi Co-founders of Takaful Bazaar, said, "We have only one goal which is to provide a financial safety net to the masses in Pakistan. Takaful Bazaar aims to provide a one-stop solution when it comes to takaful. Together with the Takaful industry we will increase the penetration and enhance financial inclusion".

Overall, the partnership between Pak-Qatar Family Takaful and Takaful Bazaar is an important step towards promoting Shariah-compliant finance and making it more accessible to customers. It also demonstrates the increasing role that technology is playing in the financial services industry, particularly in the area of customer experience.

Hotel One signs a management agreement with Century Ventures



News Desk

ISLAMABAD :To complement the Lahore residents' lifestyle, Hotel One will open another hotel in the city, in the upcoming Century Venture 1, located on MM Alam Road, Gulberg III. In this regard, Mr. Ahmed Iqbal Saeed, Vice President Operations, Hotel One and Mr. Ayaz Mohammad Lakhani, Director & CEO, Century Venture 1, had an agreement signing ceremony on Tuesday at Pearl-Continental

Hotel Rawalpindi. Present at the event were Mr. Wasim Mazhar, Director, Century Ventures Pvt. Ltd and Mr. Jan Verduyn, VP Development, Hashoo Hotels among other associates and guests.

Mr. Ahmed Iqbal Saeed described the immense opportunities associated with Century Venture 1, the new residential and commercial complex of Lahore, for the business community and investors of the country. "We are delighted to collaborate with Century Ventures.

Ericsson to showcase latest network solutions at Mobile World Congress 2023

News Desk

KARACHI : Ericsson is set to showcase its latest network-related demos at the Mobile World Congress (MWC) in Barcelona. The Swedish telecom vendor spotlights its leading technology across topics including accelerating networks, monetizing 5G, and its vision of future networks.

From its recent indoor and macro portfolio announcements to Fixed Wireless Access to a live digital twin of a 6G network, Ericsson's demos will provide a glimpse into the company's innovative technologies that are set to impact the telecom industry.

MWC in Barcelona is the world's largest mobile industry event, and Ericsson's presence is highly anticipated by industry experts and professionals.

One of the key demos that Ericsson will be showcasing is its highly anticipated Ericsson Radio System hardware wall and tower. The display will include the latest products from radio access network (RAN) and transport portfolios, from outdoor to indoor, with the ability to lift-and-compare coming generation of single- and multi-band radios, to baseline products.

At the center of the show floor are displays related to monetizing 5G. Some exciting demos here include the Fixed Wireless Access opportunity, featuring the latest market developments and technology breakthroughs on customer-premises equipment (CPEs), millimeter wave, self-install applications and more. The



themed area also highlights Time-Critical Communications with an array of partners, where visitors can discover use cases such as remote driving and extended reality through live demos.

Not to be missed is the demo of some 5G standalone network slicing early deployments with examples of a premium Formula One experience with Singtel,

5G smart patrol car with Far EasTone and fast site construction with Telstra.

Ericsson's vision for future networks is also a major focus at MWC. The company will showcase its energy-efficient solutions and offer a glimpse into an exciting future of 6G-related technologies being explored in its labs. Among these exhibits are zero energy sensors, live digital twinning of a 6G network, and exploring the performance capabilities of potential new 6G spectrum.

Speaking about the demos, Ericsson's David Hammarwall, Head of Product Area Networks, says: "We are thrilled to showcase our latest solutions that can help service providers accelerate their network evolution, monetize their 5G investments, and prepare for the future. We believe that our cutting-edge technologies can enable a better connected and sustainable world, and we look forward to showing their potential at MWC."

More than 80,000 attendees from all over the world are expected to descend on Barcelona for the four-day MWC 2023 event. The Ericsson experience is sure to be a highlight of the event, and will be at Hall 2 of the Fira Grand Via, Barcelona from 27 February to 2 March 2023.

realme Announces Global Launch of realme GT3

Bureau Report

LAHORE: realme, the world's fastest-growing smartphone brand, announced today at Mobile World Congress 2023 the global launch of the realme GT3—its next-generation speed flagship with the world's fastest charging power: 240W.

Starting since the first generation, the realme GT Series has represented realme's most cutting-edge technology innovations, from the mind-blowing suitcase design on the GT Master Series to the true premium flagship realme GT2 Pro Series, and now the speed limit breaker—realme GT3.

"realme was founded with the Dare to Leap spirit and the mission of empowering the young generation with leap-forward technology and design." Chase Xu, Vice President of realme and President of realme Global



Marketing, stated: "Entering its fifth year, realme is taking an even bigger leap forward by becoming the first brand to break through the industry's glass ceiling. It demonstrates realme's commitment to improving our market presence through innovative technologies and better connecting with our young audiences."

240W: World's Highest Charging Standard

240W means more than just a blazing fast charging speed; It also represents the fastest charging power ever mass-produced in the market and the maximum charging power possible under USB-C standards. Together it makes 240W the world's highest charging standard.

NEECA conducts a capacity-building session

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: National Energy Efficiency and Conservation Authority (NEECA) has organized a capacity-building session on the importance of Energy Efficiency at NEECA for the students and faculty of the IT department-Women's University Rawalpindi.

The session started with the Holy name of Allah followed by presentations on different topics by directors of NEECA.

All the representatives highlighted the importance and need for energy efficiency and its conservation. Moreover, emphasis was made on the role that IT plays in energy conservation. Along with that, the students were informed about the industrial sector of Pakistan and the crisis prevailing due to the use of inefficient appli-

ances.

Director SMO, Mr. Sabieh emphasized the behavior and civic sense of citizens that need to be changed in order to conserve energy. He said that we have been coming forward with new projects in all 5 major sectors of the economy to reduce energy inefficiency.

Mr. Feroz Baig, Director of Industry said that 40% of the energy consumption of the country is in the industrial sector. He briefed the students about the boilers, steam turbines, and furnaces that are used in industries and how they can be made energy efficient. He also said that we must use energy efficiently and intelligently rather than cross-cutting.

Mr. Zeeshan, Director of Electrical said that Pakistan is among the countries that are vulnerable to climate change. In this aspect, students play

a very important role in energy efficiency and conservation. An estimated measure of 45% of energy is consumed in buildings which is a great threat to the coming generation so we all as citizens of Pakistan have to take care of the available resources and use appliances that are energy efficient.

Mr. Ali Imran, Director of Information Technology and Futuristic said that energy is the backbone of every country. For its efficient and positive use, NEECA has been working on projects and bringing up new ideas related to the field of IT through social media platforms and is monitoring and evaluating the effectiveness of awareness regarding energy efficiency and its conservation on websites.

Managing Director Dr. Sardar Moazzam gave a word of thanks to the students and staff of WU-R



and instructed them further about Energy Efficiency and conservation. He added that a significant amount of energy can be saved by reducing power usage at the domestic level. He

also offered the students of WU-R the chance to come forward with their research projects, and innovative ideas to work with the IT unit of NEECA.

NEPRA Conducts Public Hearing on K-Electric's Investment Plan 2023-2030

Spokesman Report

KARACHI: The National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (NEPRA) conducted a public hearing today on KE's 7-year investment plan in transmission and distribution. The hearing was held in Islamabad with many attendees joining virtually as well. KE management shared details of the plan and projects being undertaken over the next control period from FY2024 to FY2030, valued at approximately PKR 484 billion.

While responding comments from the audience, KE leadership stated that the investment plan has been conceived with a vision to balance affordability, availability and sustainability of power supply. It aligns with the developments in the power sector including the implementation of the competitive markets framework and the culmination of exclusivity for power distribution companies. In this regard, KE has filed for a non-exclusive license with the regulator late in December 2022.

The hearing was attended by a wide range of stakeholders representing industries and community leaders alike. Key themes discussed were the projects being undertaken to drive growth and reliability in KE's transmission and distribution network, the projected growth in demand within the utility's operational territory, and planned technological interventions to further improve the quality and reliability of the service.

Participants also shared their comments on KE's performance since privatization. Queries included the Karachi based electric utility's future investments including making power affordable for all, incentivizing foreign and local stakeholders to further invest in the power sector, while others shared that the company's services have improved since the company's privatization. Participants also suggested keeping ground realities in mind when setting the future T&D losses and recoveries targets to ensure a sustainable power supply to the city.

Young Pakistani martial artist sets Guinness World Record

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: A six-year-old Pakistani martial artist, Salaar Mehsood has set a Guinness World Record by doing the most cartwheels in 30 seconds.

"Salaar did 26 one-handed cartwheels

in 30 seconds and broke the previous record of 25," Pakistan's renowned martial artist Irfan Mehsood told APP on Wednesday.

Salaar is a student of Irfan, who is the holder of 60 Guinness World Records. Irfan has broken various records includ-

ing the most push-ups (fingertips, carrying a 60 lb pack) in one minute, most step-ups in one minute (carrying a 100 lb pack), and the longest time in a reverse abdominal plank position carrying a 100 lb pack.

Irfan said he was also the only athlete

to break world records using 80 to 100 pounds of weight. "I'm the only Pakistani athlete to break most of India's world records. I have so far broken records of nine countries, including India, USA, UK, France, Philippines, Iraq, Egypt, Italy, and Spain," he said.

Powell, Haseebullah recover Zalmi to 197/5 after horror start against Kings

A Sports -

RAWALPINDI: Peshawar Zalmi's Haseebullah and Rovman Powell struck magnificent half-centuries to recover their side to post a decent total of 197/5 after Karachi Kings' Mohammad Amir ran through their top order in the 17th match of the ongoing Pakistan Super League (PSL) season eight.

Put into bat first, Zalmi got off to a horrible start as the side lost three crucial wickets of Mohammad Haris (0), Babar Azam (0) and Saim Ayub (1) inside three overs; courtesy of a fiery opening spell from Amir.

With their side in heaps of trouble, young wicketkeeper batter Haseebullah and Tom Kohler-Cadmore stitched a gritty fourth wicket partnership and scripted an astounding recovery as the pair raised 82 runs.



Haseebullah was the core aggressor of the crucial partnership and brought up his half-century in just 27 balls but Tabraiz Shamsi cut his celebrations

short as he struck out the former in his second over to hand a much-needed breakthrough to the Kings.

The young left-handed batter scored 50 off 29 deliveries, hitting four boundaries and three sixes.

Following his dismissal, Powell wasted no time in settling down and carried on the recovery for his side with clean hitting and bolstered Zalmi for a big total with a 29-ball fifty.

Powell top-scored for the Zalmi with a brisk 34-ball 64 before falling to Amir in the 19th over. He smashed six boundaries and four sixes amid his brilliant knock.

Meanwhile, amid Powell and Haseebullah's aggressive knocks, Kohler-Cadmore held his end firm and went on to score an anchoring 56-run knock in 45 deliveries, laced up with five boundaries and three sixes.

6th PGF Ladies Amateur Golf Championship

Tahir Amin Malik

LAHORE: The Pakistan Golf Federation (PGF) continues with its eventful backing of ladies golf. In this connection the 6th PGF Ladies Amateur Golf Championship is scheduled for competitive activity from 3rd March to 5th March 2023. This was stated by Shaukat Javed, Convenor Golf and Tournament Director Ayesha Hamid. She further said that playing arena will be the par 72, Lahore Gymkhana Golf Course. A salient attribute of this ladies golf championship is that it will be a World Amateur Golf Ranking Event.

It is a national level championship with participation of ladies from all principal golf playing centers of the country.

Category A is for lady golf players whose handicap falls in the range 12 and below. They will contesting over 3 days, from 3rd March to 5th March, a total of 54 holes with 18 holes to be played each day.



to handicaps ranging between 13-24. For them the playing days are 4th and 5th March, a total of 36 holes.

Category C is for lady competitors whose handicap ranges between 25-36. Playing days are 4th and 5th March, 18 holes each day, a total of 36 holes.

Junior girls eligibility is based on age. Girls of 14 years and below will compete in this event to be played on 4th March. Girls will play 18 holes.

Inter Association Team Match is lined up for 4th and 5th March. The Championship is fully backed by

Pakistan Golf Federation Prizes for Category A players will be six to be awarded to top six performers and for categories B and C there will be 3 gross and 3 net prizes. In girls section there is one gross and one net prize.

In the Inter Association Team Match between Provincial Teams only the winning team will get the prized trophy.

Ayesha Hamid the Lady Captain of Lahore Gymkhana and Tournament shared that Lady players of immense merit will be seen in action. The sisters Parkha Ijaz and Rimsha Ijaz will match

playing skills with quite a few nationally recognized lady golfers. They are Hamna Amjad, Daniah Syed, Aania Farooq and Abiha Syed (Karachi), Bushra Fatima and Suneya Osama (Garrison), Ana James (Royal Palm), Tehmina Ahmed, Amina Tiwana and Laiba Ali Shah (Gymkhana).

Ayesha Hamid, Lady Captain of Lahore Gymkhana will be the Tournament Director. As for the playing arena the Lahore Gymkhana Golf Course, eighteen holes, par 72 layout has significant features like excellent tees, immaculate fairways, true and fast greens and 3750 trees of various types. Additionally 55 bunkers, 6 water hazards add to the challenge and test of champions ability and coerce them to strategize and plan their shots.

The final round will take place on Sunday, 5th March at the Lahore Gymkhana Golf Course. At the conclusion of the championship, the prize distribution will be held at Golf Course Lawns at 330 pm.

Australia take comfortable lead after Kuhnemann's five-for

Sports Desk

INDORE: Australia grabbed the early advantage with a lead of 47 on Wednesday after Matthew Kuhnemann's five-wicket haul helped dismiss India for 109 on a dramatic first day of the third Test.

The tourists were 156-4 at stumps after Usman Khawaja hit a gritty 60 to drive his team's reply on a viciously turning pitch in Indore.

Peter Handscomb, on seven, and Cameron Green, on six, were batting at close of play. Spinner Ravindra Jadeja took all four Australian wickets.

Khawaja stood out with his 21st Test half-century and a 96-run second-wicket stand with Marnus Labuschagne, who made 31.

Labuschagne, who tops the Test batsman rankings, won a reprieve on nought when Jadeja was adjudged to have overstepped the crease.

The left-handed Khawaja fell with an attempted sweep, caught at deep mid-wicket after putting Australia ahead of India's first-innings total.

Stand-in skipper Steve Smith looked



good in his knock of 26 before being caught behind.

But it was Kuhnemann, a left-arm spinner, who made Australia's day after the hosts elected to bat first on a dry pitch, which turned from the start.

Kuhnemann returned his maiden five-wicket haul in just his second Test

and bowled out India soon after lunch with the help of senior spinner Nathan Lyon, who took three.

Australia, attempting to fight back after two bruising defeats in the four-match series, introduced spin in the sixth over.

It brought instant reward in a frenetic

opening session on a spinning minefield with a low bounce, as Kuhnemann had captain Rohit Sharma stumped for 12.

Shubman Gill, recalled in place of the struggling KL Rahul, began to hit back with three fours but also fell to Kuhnemann, caught at slip by Smith for 21.

Lyon then bowled Cheteshwar Pujara for one with a delivery that spun hugely and stayed low.

Wickets kept tumbling as India slipped to 45-5 in the first hour of play.

Virat Kohli looked positive in his knock of 22, but fell lbw to Todd Murphy, the third time the off-spinner has claimed the star batsman's wicket in as many matches.

From the first ball of the day, returning left-arm fast bowler Mitchell Starc thought he had Rohit caught behind but the appeal was turned down. Australia did not review, only for replays to show the batsman had nicked the ball. Three balls later they missed another opportunity that would have seen Rohit out lbw had it been referred to the TV umpire.

But Rohit, who hit a century in the first Test, did not last long and neither did the rest of the Indian batting.

Tayyab, Ifran fall but Wade's fifty takes Kings to 80/3 in 10 Overs

A Sports -

LAHORE: KK 133/8 (17 Overs) Amir continues KK 124/8 (16 Overs) Aamer replaces Arshad KK 116/6 (15 Overs) Omarzai replaces Wahab KK 112/5 (14 Overs) Arshad replaces Mujeeb KK 105/5 (13 Overs) Wahab replaces Aamer KK 96/5 (12 Overs) Mujeeb comes again KK 87/4 (11 Overs) Aamer continues KK 80/3 (10 Overs) Mujeeb continues

KK 77/2 (9 Overs) Aamer Jamal comes to bowl his first KK 71/2 (8 Overs) Mujeeb replaces Wahab KK 66/2 (7 Overs) Omarzai continues KK 55/1 (6 Overs) Wahab continues KK 42/1 (5 Overs) Azmatullah Omarzai into the attack KK 38/0 (4 Overs) Wahab Riaz comes to bowl his first KK 30/0 (3 Overs) Arshad continues KK 17/0 (2 Overs)

Mujeeb ur Rehman to bowl from the other end KK 6/0 (1 Over) Matthew Wade and Adam Rossington come out to bat for the Kings. Arshad Iqbal to bowl the first over. KARACHI KINGS vs PESHAWAR ZALMI (2nd INNINGS) RAWALPINDI: Peshawar Zalmi's Haseebullah and Rovman Powell struck magnificent half-centuries to recover their side to post a decent total of 197/5 after Karachi Kings' Mohammad Amir ran through their top order in the 17th match of the ongoing Pakistan Super League (PSL) season eight. PZ 197/5 (20 Overs) Akif to bowl the final over PZ 176/5 (19 Overs) Amir to bowl the 19th PZ 164/4 (18 Overs) Yamin replaces Amir PZ 146/4 (17 Overs) Akif comes back into the attack PZ 132/4 (16 Overs) Amir comes back PZ 124/4 (15 Overs) Imad to bowl his last PZ 106/4 (14 Overs) Shamsi comes to bowl his last PZ 103/4 (13 Overs) Imad continues PZ 94/4 (12 Overs)

Shamsi comes again PZ 89/4 (11 Overs) Imad comes back PZ 84/4 (10 Overs) Shamsi continues PZ 74/3 (9 Overs) Akif replaces Imad PZ 63/3 (8 Overs) Tabraiz Shamsi into the attack PZ 55/3 (7 Overs) Imad Wasim comes into the attack PZ 41/3 (6 Overs) Yamin comes again PZ 27/3 (5 Overs) Akif Javed comes into the attack PZ 13/3 (4 Overs) Yamin continues

World Cup finals record goal-scorer Just Fontaine dies



Sports Desk

PARIS: Just Fontaine, legendary French footballer and the all-time top scorer in a single World Cup finals with 13 goals, has died aged 89, his family told AFP on Wednesday.

Fontaine achieved the record in the 1958 finals in Sweden where France reached the semi-finals for the first time in their history, losing to Pele's Brazil.

Part of a wonderful attacking trident at that World Cup alongside Roger Piantoni and Raymond Kopa, Fontaine might never have gone to Sweden at all.

Only injuries to fellow forwards Thadee Cisowski and his Reims teammate Rene Biard saw him make the squad and then the starting line-up.

Fontaine also won four French league titles, one with Nice and three with the great Reims side of the post-war era.

He played in the Reims team that lost to the Real Madrid of Alfredo di Stefano, Ferenc Puskas and Raymond Kopa in the 1959 European Cup final.

Fontaine was then forced to retire in 1962 at the age of just 28 after he suffered a double leg fracture.

He later moved into management, lasting just two matches in charge of France in 1967 before leading Paris Saint-Germain to promotion to the top division in 1974 and then coaching Morocco to third place at the 1980 Africa Cup of Nations.

Dwaine Pretorius joins struggling Quetta Gladiators for PSL 8 remainder

A Sports

LAHORE: The rock-bottom Quetta Gladiators got a major boost ahead of the second phases of the ongoing Pakistan Super League (PSL) season eight as South African bowling all-rounder Dwaine Pretorius joined the former champions on Wednesday.

The 2019 PSL champions United, who suffered a massive blow with Jason Roy's departure for his national duty in Bangladesh, got a much-needed confidence booster ahead of their remaining matches as Pretorius joined the squad on Wednesday afternoon.

Taking to Twitter, the Gladiators announced the arrival of Pretorius for the remaining matches of PSL 8.

"T20 specialist bowler Dwaine Pretorius has joined [Purple Force]," wrote Gladiators.

The former champions are currently struggling in the ongoing extravaganza as they sit at the bottom of the points table with just two points in five matches.

Sarfraz Ahmed-led Gladiators need a strong comeback in a bid to hype up their playoff march.

The Gladiators next face defending champions and leaders Lahore Qalandars in their sixth fixture of the PSL 8 on Thursday.

Karachi Kings win toss, elect to bowl first against Peshawar Zalmi

A Sports -

RAWALPINDI: Karachi Kings have won the toss and opted to bowl first against Peshawar Zalmi in the 17th match of the Pakistan Super League (PSL) season eight on Wednesday.

PLAYING XI's Karachi Kings: Matthew Wade, Adam Rossington, Tayyab Tahir, Shoaib Malik, Imad Wasim(c), Irfan Khan Niazi, Ben Cutting, Aamer Yamin, Mohammad Amir, Tabraiz Shamsi, Akif Javed.

Peshawar Zalmi: Babar Azam (c), Mohammad Haris, Saim Ayub, Tom Kohler-Cadmore, Rovman Powell, Haseebullah Khan, Azmatullah Omarzai, Wahab Riaz, Aamer Jamal, Arshad Iqbal, Mujeeb Ur Rehman.

Jashan-e-Baharan sports events will be held

Sports Desk

LAHORE: The sports events of Marathon, Tour de Lahore Cycle Race, Fun Race and Rustam-e-Punjab Dangal will be organised under the auspices of Sports Board Punjab (SBP) as part of upcoming Jashan-e-Baharan festival scheduled to be held from March 10 to 12, 2023.

In this regard, DG Sports Punjab Tariq Qureshi presided over an important meeting at National Hockey Stadium on Wednesday to review preparations of Jashan-e-Baharan sports events.

Addressing the meeting, DG Sports Punjab informed that Rustam-e-Punjab Dangal will be held at Punjab Stadium in which top wrestlers of the country will participate. The Marathon and Tour de Lahore Cycle Race will be of 42-km distance while the Fun Race will be run for one and five kilometers distance. "The aspiring participants of Tour de Lahore Cycle Race and Fun Race will be registered at different prominent points of the city," he added.

LAHORE: KK 133/8 (17 Overs) Amir continues

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