



Maryam mocks Imran, asks Nawaz to lend some 'courage' to PTI chief

PML-N Chief Organiser Maryam Nawaz on Sunday took a jibe at Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan and asked her father Nawaz Sharif to lend some of his courage to the PTI chief who had allegedly escaped from his residence Zaman Park fearing arrest.



Asif Ali Zardari says 'do not consider Imran Khan a politician'

Former president and Pakistan People's Party (PPP) co-chairman Asif Ali Zardari said that he does not consider PTI chief Imran Khan a politician and they will not hold negotiations with him. While talking to a private news channel, Asif Ali Zardari said that they will actively participate in the elections. He, however, said that they will not hold talks with Imran Khan. (Report on Page 8)

Simultaneously published from Islamabad, Lahore and Multan

Pak Qatar Relations

DOHA: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif meets the Amir of the state of Qatar H.H. Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani on the sidelines of 5th United Nations Least Developed Countries (LDCs) Conference on Sunday.

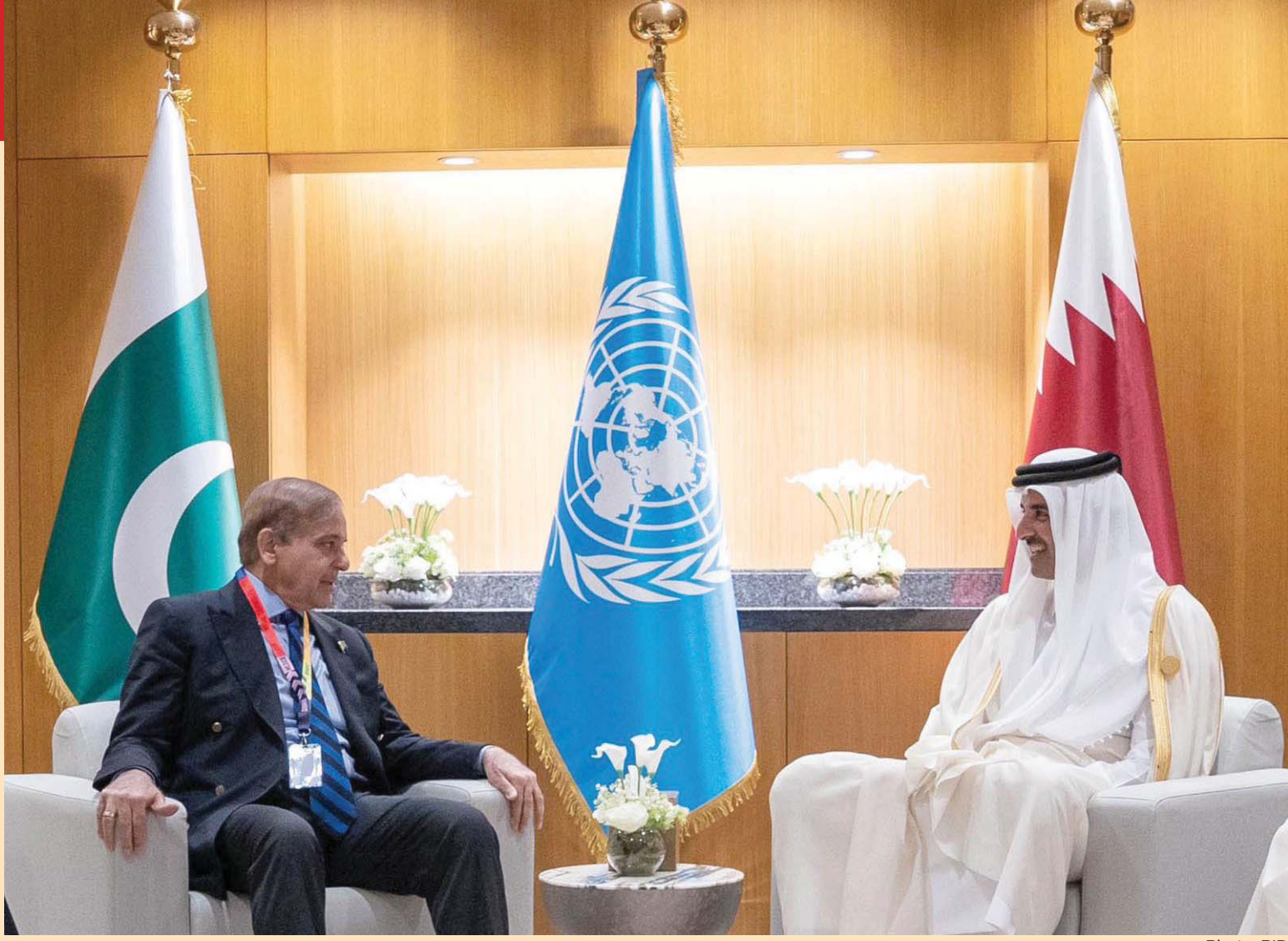


Photo: PID

PM, Qatari Amir discuss mutually beneficial cooperation, economic opportunities

Spokesman Report

DOHA: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif and Amir of Qatar Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani on Sunday discussed a wide array of mutually beneficial issues and exchanged views to further strengthen the excellent cooperation between the two countries in diverse fields including in the economic and invest-

ment sectors.

During a meeting, the prime minister appreciated Qatar's consistent support to the development projects in Pakistan and highlighted the vast opportunities of cooperation between the two countries.

The Amir of Qatar lauded the contributions of Pakistani manpower in his country's development and especially referred

to the excellent performance of Pakistani security authorities during the FIFA Football World Cup 2022 successfully hosted by Qatar, PM Office Media Wing said in a press release.

During the meeting, both leaders also discussed further cementing of bilateral cooperation, investment, trade and sending of further Pakistani skilled workers to Qatar.

The Qatari Amir welcomed the

prime minister and reiterated his keen interest in strengthening the economic cooperation between Qatar and Pakistan. He also reiterated his resolve to continue Qatar's complete cooperation and support in the development and progress agenda of Pakistan.

Meanwhile, the Amir of Qatar accepted an invitation from the prime minister to visit Pakistan. Earlier, the prime minister arrived

in Qatar on a two-day official visit where he would participate in the 5th United Nations conference on the Least Developed Countries (LDCs).

The conference, being held from 5-9 March 2023, will consider steps for accelerating sustainable development in the Least Developed Countries, helping them make progress on the road to prosperity.

Qavi Khan passes away in Canada



News Desk

TORONTO: Senior Pakistani actor Muhammad Qavi Khan passed away in Canada on Sunday at the age of 80.

In a statement, Arts Council President Muhammad Ahmed Shah confirmed the death of senior Pakistani actor, saying that the actor had been unwell for some time and was undergoing treatment in Canada.

Qavi Khan was honoured with Pride of Performance, Nigar Award and Sitara-e-Imtiaz. The charismatic actor worked in around 200 films. He had also performed in numerous super hit TV serials, radio and stage dramas.

PTI Workers Gather at Zaman Park as Police Attempt to Arrest Imran Khan

Bureau Report

LAHORE: The Islamabad police on Sunday reached former prime minister Imran Khan's Zaman Park residence to arrest him after his non-bailable arrest warrant was issued by the Islamabad sessions court in the Toshakhana case.

Additional sessions judge Zafar Iqbal of an Islamabad court had issued the former prime minister's non-bailable arrest warrant on February 28.

In a series of tweets, the Islamabad police said the former premier is avoiding arrest.

Taking to Twitter, Islamabad police spokesperson said that they have reached Lahore to arrest PTI chief on court orders. He said that Khan will be arrested after all legal requirements



are completed. It stated that the PTI chief was "avoiding" the arrest, adding that the superintendent of police had "gone into Imran's room but he was not present there".

He also warned of legal action against those creating hurdles in the arrest

of the former premier. "Imran will be shifted to Islamabad under police custody," he said.

PTI workers gather at Zaman Park

While reacting to the reports of the arrest, PTI leader Fawad Chaudhry on Sunday afternoon called all party workers to reach

Zaman Park in Lahore as television reports said Imran Khan would be arrested in the Toshakhana case.

In a tweet, the former information minister categorically stated that "any attempt to arrest Imran Khan will worsen the situation".

Ch Shujaat Hussain proposes to hold general elections

Bureau Report

GUJRAT: Pakistan Muslim League-Quaid (PML-Q) President Chaudhry Shujaat Hussain has proposed to hold general elections across the country, announced Chaudhry Salik Hussain.

In a statement, federal minister Chaudhry Salik Hussain said that the PML-Q president has apprised Pakistan People's Party (PPP) co-Chairman Asif Ali Zardari and Prime Minister (PM) Shehbaz Sharif of his proposal to hold general elections.

"It has been decided that joint candidates of PDM [Pakistan Democratic Movement] will be fielded across the country," he said, adding that PML-Q will not merge with PPP or PML-N.

A day earlier, PTI Chairman Imran Khan demanded the government to hold general elections across Pakistan, reiterating that political stability was imperative for economic growth.

Pemra imposes ban on broadcasting Imran's speeches, statements

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Electronic Media Regulatory Authority (Pemra) on Sunday imposed a complete ban on the broadcast of speeches, talks or public addresses of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) supreme Imran Khan.

In a issued notification, the regulatory body stated that the PTI chairman has been making false accusations against state institutions in his speeches, "which is prejudicial to the maintenance of law and order and is likely to disturb public peace and tranquillity."

Pemra has directed all satellite television channels to refrain from airing any of the PTI chief statements, addresses, and conversations, whether recorded or live, or from a press talk.

The regulator's decision to ban the broadcasting of Imran's speeches was made under Section 27 of the Pemra Ordinance 2002. It added

that "Airing of baseless allegations, hateful, slanderous and unwarranted statement against state institutions and officers are in sheer violation of Article 19 of the Constitution."

The media watchdog's decision to ban the broadcast of Imran Khan's speeches is not a novel occurrence. In fact, the media regulator had previously implemented a similar ban on August 21 last year. The blanket ban was enforced after Imran allegedly made threatening remarks against Additional District and Sessions Judge Zeba Chaudhry, as well as the Islamabad Police IG and DIG. The alleged remarks came after the judge had handed over Imran's aide Shahbaz Gill to the police for physical custody for two days.

Imran Khan had challenged the ban on his speeches in the Islamabad High Court (IHC), which subsequently overturned the decision on September 6, 2022.

PTI to move court against ban

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: PTI leader Fawad Chaudhry has responded to the development by accusing the government of making a "sinister effort" to stifle Imran Khan's voice.

He added the party will challenge the ban in court,

and also urged the media to move the court against this order.

While PTI leader Ali Haider Zaidi took to Twitter and penned that "Using Pemra as a political tool and banning leaders like @ImranKhanPTI will not address the challenges Pakistan faces today,"

Islamabad police team in Lahore to arrest Imran Khan: Police Spokesperson

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Police have reached Lahore to arrest PTI Chairman as per orders of the court, police spokesperson said on Sunday.

As per details, Islamabad police along with their Punjab Police counterparts have reached PTI chairman Imran Khan's Zaman Park residence in Lahore to take him into custody for his persistent absences from Toshakhana court hearings.

In a series of tweets, the Islamabad Police said that the

operation was being conducted with the cooperation of the Lahore police.

It stated that the PTI chief was avoiding the arrest, adding that the superintendent of police had gone into Imran's room but he was not present there.

"Legal action will be taken against those obstructing the execution of court orders as the law is equal for everyone," the police said.

Capital police, in its custody, would shift Imran Khan in Islamabad.

Faiz Hameed, Saqib Nisar still lobbying for Imran Khan: Maulana Fazl

Bureau Report

LAHORE: Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) President Maulana Fazl ur Rehman has alleged that Lt Gen (retd) Faiz Hameed and former chief justice of Pakistan (CJP) Saqib Nisar were still lobbying for Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan, urging institution to take notice of the matter.

Addressing a press conference in Lahore, the Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam (F) chief claimed that ideological divisions were being witnessed within the institutions for the

first time in history, adding that such things happen when 'some outsiders' were calling the shots.

Maulana Fazlur Rehman urged the institutions to take notice of Lt Gen (retd) Faiz Hameed and former chief justice of Pakistan (CJP) Saqib Nisar's involvement, saying that they were still lobbying for PTI Chairman Imran Khan.

He also regretted that the country's situation has worsened due to the policies of last three-year, alleging that whichever country starts helping, Imran Khan becomes an obstacle in its way.

Holi festival

KARACHI: A Hindu family is buying decoration items for celebration of Holi Festival, in Provincial Capital.



Photo: Online

Asif Ali Zardari says 'do not consider Imran Khan a politician'

Monitoring Desk

KARACHI: Former president and Pakistan People's Party (PPP) co-chairman Asif Ali Zardari said that he does not consider PTI chief Imran Khan a politician and they will not hold negotiations with him.

While talking to a private news channel, Asif Ali Zardari said that they will actively participate in the elections. He, however, said that they will not hold talks with Imran Khan.

During his interview, Zardari held discussions on the

economic and political situation and Nawaz Sharif's return. He criticised Imran Khan is popular due to poverty and he does not consider him a politician.

He said that he remained in the custody of the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) for three months during Imran Khan's era and he was not even allowed to offer Eid prayers.

The former president said that NAB and business cannot run together. "When I came to the parliament, then I asked to choose NAB or business. This is a real issue that a 14-grade



NAB officer summons a 22-grade officer to question his actions."

He added that all individuals want to save their honour and nobody would sign a file.

Regarding Nawaz Sharif's return, Zardari said that it is Nawaz Sharif's decision to decide the time. He added that he usually favours PML-N supremo's decisions despite expressing differences on multiple occasions.

While commenting on the judiciary's role, Zardari said that parliament is the supreme institution but not the courts. He said that the courts are seemingly interfering in parliamentary affairs.

The PPP co-chairman said that Pervaiz Elahi put his political career at risk 'after a telephone call'.

President Alvi watches Polo match



Sports Desk

LAHORE: President Dr. Arif Alvi on Sunday watched the final match of 2nd President of Pakistan Polo Cup 2023, played at Jinnah Polo Fields.

President Dr. Arif Alvi was chief guest at the final match, played between BN Polo and FG Polo. FG Polo remained triumphant by defeating BN Polo after a thrilling game by 9-9.5.

The tournament was held under

the aegis of Jinnah Polo Fields. A large number of spectators were present at the ground to support their teams in the final match.

An exhibition tent-pegging competition was also held in which teams from Pakistan Rangers, Aitchison College boys and girls teams participated. The Fauji band also performed after the match.

Later, President Arif Alvi gave away prize and trophies to both the teams, as well as the umpire and commentator.

Bilawal warns to leave ministries if centre does not fulfill promises

Spokesman Report

KARACHI: Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari asked the federal government to fulfill its promises otherwise it would be difficult to keep ministries.

Addressing a ceremony in Karachi, he said the Sindh government was providing every possible support to the flood-affecteds whose houses and livelihood were destroyed by the recent flood mentioning the focus on agriculture was imperative to improve the economy.

He highlighted Sindh was the only province that was selling 40

Kg sugarcane at Rs4,000 and when the Pakistan Peoples Party came into power, the exports volume of Pakistan was significantly low but the former president Asif Ali Zardari focused a lot on the agricultural sector to provide relief to the farmers.

PPP chairman said the small farmers would be provided relief through the Benazir Income Support Program while mentioning the federal government should fulfill its pledges with the flood victims.

He added the floods destroyed crops of five million acres and the floods wreaked havoc for the agricultural economy.

PEMRA suspends ARY News licence

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Electronic Media Regulatory Authority (PEMRA) has suspended the licence of the ARY News for broadcasting Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chief Imran Khan's statement in the headline slot of 9:00 pm.

The PEMRA took action against ARY News immediately after imposing a ban on Imran Khan's speeches and media statements following a notice issued at 8:30 pm. The channel faced PEMRA's wrath despite implementing the order as it did not air Imran Khan's statement in the 9:00 pm headlines.

Other television channels also aired Imran Khan's statement but discriminatory action was taken against the ARY News by the electronic media authority.

The suspension order read, "It has been observed that M/s ARY Communications Ltd. (ARY News) on March 05, 2023, in its news bulletin at 9:00 p.m. aired clips of Mr. Imran Khan's speech deliv-

ered at Zaman Park, Lahore, today. ARY News aired referred content in willful defiance to the Prohibition Order."

It added, "Foregoing in view, the competent authority i.e. the Chairman PEMRA in exercise of powers vested in Section 30(3) of the PEMRA Ordinance 2002 as amended by PEMRA (Amendment) Act 2007, hereby Suspends broadcast satellite TV Channel license conferred to M/s ARY Communications Ltd. (ARY News) with immediate effect, till further orders."

Pakistan Federal Union of Journalists (PFUJ) Secretary Finance Saeed Jahan aka Lala Asad strongly condemned the electronic media authority's move.

Earlier, the Pakistan Electronic Media Regulatory Authority (PEMRA) imposed a ban on broadcasting 'live and recorded' speeches and press conferences of former prime minister and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf Chairman Imran Khan on all satellite TV channels with immediate effect.

Azerbaijan struggles to revive life in war-hit cities, rehabilitate worship, recreational places

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The government of Azerbaijan is currently carrying out the gigantic task of bringing life back to the war-hit areas of Nagorno-Karabakh by rebuilding civic facilities, worship and recreational places as well water reservoirs.

The representatives of foreign media visiting Azerbaijan to attend summit of Non-Aligned Movement's Contact Group held in Baku on March 2, were escorted to different war-ravaged areas which had been reclaimed

by Azerbaijan from Armenia following a three-decade war.

The Azeri government is carrying out rehabilitation work in Shush city, once a hill resort and cultural center which now gave a deserted look owing to the massive destruction during the war period.

During a visit to the site, the Azeri authorities told the media that rehabilitation work was going to restore a 150-year old Gazanchi Church and two historical mosques.

The media men were also given a guided tour to the newly constructed Fuzuli

International Airport which was built within eight months considering the urgent needs for relief supplies as well as the influx of foreign delegates. Two more airports were also in the pipeline in the Karabakh region.

The heavy machinery was engaged in the restoration of a huge water reservoir in Fuzuli which was used to be a main source of irrigation to the area, famous for its agricultural produces.

A massive tree plantation was also underway in the region to revive its green look as well as the economic activ-

ity. As on one side, there were the remains of erstwhile city center of Fuzuli, while across the road, the ongoing construction of around 1,000 residential apartments was emerging as a ray of hope for the displaced population which was eagerly awaiting return to their native areas.

Amidst all massive reconstruction activities, the major challenge of clearing the region of around 1 million landmines still existed as the government was diverting major chunk of its funding for the purpose. Later, the media men were

also given a round of Lachin Road, a strategic route linking Nagorno-Karabakh with Armenia, where the Russian peacekeeping troops were on patrol.

The convoys of Russian army trucks carrying relief supplies were also seen moving towards their designated supply points.

On the same road, a group of civil society representatives were holding a peaceful protest for almost three months against the illegal exploitation of mineral deposits in the Karabakh economic region.

PTI approaches SC for Imran's appearance in courts through video link

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf approached the Supreme Court for the appearance of PTI chief in the judicial proceedings via video link.

In a joint letter written by PTI Vice Chairman Shah Mahmood Qureshi and Secretary General Asad Umer in which it was said that Imran Khan was the former prime minister and the leader of the largest party while mentioning he was dethroned through conspiracy with many fabricated cases registered against him and the party.

It was added in the letter that he survived the attempt on his life and his life was in danger if he would appear in the court in person and given the history of the country with many leaders becoming the victim of murder attempts, the threats to Imran's life were "serious".

Media awareness stressed for countrywide first-ever Digital Population Census 2023

Monitoring Desk

ISLAMABAD: Spokesperson of Pakistan Bureau of Statistics, Muhammad Sarwar Gondal on Sunday stressed for media awareness for the society about the first-ever digital population census 2023 in the country which would continue for one month to help make future development plans, creation of jobs, assembly seats and for keeping development funds for urban and rural areas. Around 121000 field enumerators have been deployed for the purpose, he said while talking to PTV news channel.

Muhammad Sarwar Gondal further said during this phase, the enumerators are visiting door-to-door with the latest tablet technology to collect household family data, adding that the aim of the census was to collect and collate details about property usage, types of busi-



nesses and the demographics of individuals, nationals and residents alike. "The government aims to conduct this census to plan better policies for the growth and development of the society", he added.

To a question, Gondal replied, "There are already many reservations over the sixth population census conducted in 2017, and now after a long gap of five years, we are again

conducting a digital population census with the coordination of all provincial stakeholders."

He urged the citizens to actively participate in the census and their personal information would remain confidential.

"All the nationals and residents, families and private sector companies should co-operate with the census teams, as it benefits everyone

and contributes to advancing the development of the country's services."

"Every piece of information provided to the census teams contributes to serving the community, whose members are an integral part of the country's comprehensive developmental policy plans," he mentioned.

He said, "The census teams, instead of recording complete details, will only collect UTN numbers, which will be provided to those citizens who will save their data digitally."

To another question, Gondal replied, "A web portal with the address self.pbs.gov.pk has already been launched for the purpose."

"Evidence-based authentic data as per international standards will be used for delimitation of constituencies in the next general elections as well as for public policy planning."

NA Speaker, Deputy condemn deadly bomb blast in Bannu; vow to deal terrorists with iron hands

City Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Speaker National Assembly Raja Pervaiz Ashraf and Deputy Speaker Zahid Akram Durrani on Sunday strongly condemned the deadly bomb blast in Bannu, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

The bomb blast resulted in the loss of precious human lives and left many injured.

Expressing their deep sorrow and grief over the tragic incident, the Speaker and Deputy Speaker prayed for the speedy recovery of the injured and extended heartfelt sympathy to the bereaved families.

They acknowledged the pain of the aggrieved families and stated that the sacrifices made by security personnel would remain alive in people's hearts.

The Speaker and Deputy Speaker also vowed to deal with the terrorists, who were enemies of humanity, with iron hands.

Balochistan CM expresses satisfaction on successfully organizing Sibi Mela

Spokesman Report

QUETTA, MAR 05 (APP): Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Abdul Quddus Bizenjo expressed his delight and satisfaction on the successful organization of Sibi's historic fair which concluded here on Sunday.

He also congratulated to the people of Sibi, other areas and related institutions for making a Sibi Mela success, saying farmers and other people played an important role in the success of the fair through their full participation.

He also thanked the security forces for making hard work day and night to organize the fair in a peaceful environment.

The CM paid tribute to Pakistan Army, police, Levies Force and district administration for providing foolproof security during the Sibi Mela, saying that the security institutions once again demonstrated their capabilities.

Modi regime rendering IIOJK people homeless: Kashmiri experts

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: In Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir, political experts and analysts have said that Narendra Modi-led fascist Indian government is rendering the Kashmiris homeless in their own homeland on one pretext or another.

According to Kashmir Media Service, the occupation authorities attached the ancestral houses of

two Kashmiris under draconian law Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) in Srinagar and Sopore and properties of 168 Kashmiris in Doda, Kishtwar, Rajouri and Poonch districts of Jammu region. The political experts and analysts in their interviews and statements in Srinagar said confiscation of the properties of Kashmiri people is sheer political vendetta on part of the Modi regime.

They said the Indian authorities are

confiscating the properties of Kashmiris to punish them for their affiliation with the ongoing freedom movement. Political experts and analysts pointed out that the Indian troops are regularly destroying Kashmiris' houses during violent military operations.

"Killing of Kashmiris in fake encounters and destruction of people's properties has become a norm in occupied Jammu and Kashmir. Modi regime is pursuing a policy not only to render the

Kashmiris homeless but also to deprive them of their identity," they said.

The political experts and analysts deplored that India is using every brutal tactic to suppress the ongoing Kashmir freedom movement. However, they said the Indian machinations will not deter the people of Jammu and Kashmir from carrying on their just cause. They added that the world must wake up to take notice of Modi regime's brutal actions in IIOJK.

Annual Exam

LAHORE: Students are solving pedagogy in the annual exam at Jamia Naimiya, in Provincial Capital.



Photo: Online

'Safai Nisaf Iman Hai' 16-day cleanliness drive inaugurated in Faisalabad

Mian Rashid Asghar

FAISALABAD: Etiquettes, manners and moral values in human life are the main characteristics of his life style.

Unless the environment of cleanliness is prominent in your surroundings, then you cannot set the standards of living a clean and transparent quality of life. The elements of cleanliness in the items of your daily usage are the most important need of the time.

These views were expressed by the Commissioner Ms. Salwat Saeed, Deputy Commissioner Ali Annan Qamar and CEO



Waste Management Company Azeem Awan, while declaring a 16-day cleanliness drive which was inaugurated "Safai Nisaf

Iman Hai".

The machinery for mechanical sweeping at Halal Ahamar Chowk has been dispatched

for washing operation all around as per specific needs and necessities. She further said that under the campaign, 200 km of roads of the city will be washed and cleaned daily and 1300 tons of waste will be picked up and transferred to the dumping site with regular cleaning Campaign.

Citizen awareness camps have been set up to create awareness among the public that due to lack of cleanliness we expose ourselves to many diseases due to dust contaminated with dangerous germs, she said and added.

She stressed on the need to

support the waste management company in the urban cleanliness campaign and make the city clean so that we all can have a healthy society and a peaceful atmosphere.

She pointed out that the cleanliness is half the faith which makes us an attractive and beautiful in the eyes of others. We need for physical, spiritual and environmental cleanliness to emerge like polite human beings.

Islam completely cares about your cleanliness in each and every thing so that you might get real access to everything.

Gomal University conducted for MPhil & PhD admissions in various departments

Adam Khan Wazir

DERA ISMAIL KHAN: Test was conducted at Wensum College for students taking admission in MPhil and PhD programs in various departments of Gomal University.

The test was conducted by the director of admission Riaz Ahmed Bettani and his team There were a

large number of candidates from different regions of Pakistan for admission to MPhil and PhD in different departments of Gomal University.

Speaking on this occasion, Director Admission Riyaz Ahmad Betni said that MPhil and PhD tests in Gomal University are being conducted under the rules issued by Higher Education

Commission Islamabad.

He further said that under the leadership of Vice Chancellor Gomal University Professor Dr. Shakibullah, provision of a peaceful educational environment is continuing in Gomal University, however Gomal University is progressing, strict security arrangements were made on the occasion.

While the facility of standby

generator was also provided for the students taking the test in case of failure in electricity supply including water.

It should be noted that the test results will be published on the Gomal University website www.gu.edu.pk as per the schedule issued by the Directorate of Admission of Gomal University.

Pakistan Sunni movement is trying to eradicate the growing divisions in the society

Mian Rashid Asghar

FAISALABAD: The solution to all the problems of the Islamic world lies in the unity of the Ummah. By electing the honest leadership we can make Pakistan a bastion of Islam. Pakistan Sunni movement is trying to eradicate the growing divisions in the society. Muslims can regain their lost position only by strengthening the relationship with the Holy Quran. Muslims have always achieved success in every field by demonstrating unity among Muslims.

These views were expressed by the divisional president of PST Prof. Pir Mohammad Asif Raza Qadri while addressing the Ittehad Ummah Ulama Convention in Ghousia Colony, Sea. Today, because of our differences and divisions, persecution of Muslims is going on all over the world. The difficult economic conditions of the country have taken hold of the common man. Due to the incompetence of the rulers and inflation, people are committing suicide.

Devotion and respect to all the holy figures of Islam is the way of Muslims. The Ulama should conduct a practical campaign to promote the attitudes of brotherhood, love and tolerance. With tolerance, patience and forgiveness, the society grows towards progress. At the end of the ceremony, a special prayer was offered for the development, security and stability of the country and for the quick resolution of the country's economic problems.

University of Education will be organize Two-day international Conference

Spokesman Report

LAHORE : Department of Zoology, University of Education is going to organize second Two-day international Conference on "Zoological Emerging Scientific Trends (ZEST)" on March 07-08, 2023 at main campus, township. A large number of International scientists from USA, Austria, Spain, Saudi Arabia, and Turkey will present their work physically/ virtually in this event. There are more than 200 Abstracts received for oral/poster presentation in the conference from national and international institutes.

The conference is focused on exploring the latest technological advancements, challenges, and opportunities in the zoological sciences. Its purpose is also to provide opportunity to young minds for national and international collaboration and contribution for excellence. The opening ceremony will be held at main campus, township which will be presided over by the vice chancellor Prof Dr Talat Naseer pasha (S.I.).

Our schools never ever faced any law and order problem: Zahid Saeed



News Desk

KARACHI :Non-profit Green Crescent Trust (GCT) striving to enroll out-of-school children in remote and deprived parts of Sindh hasn't experienced closure of any of its schools, not for a single day, due to any security-related issue in the past 29 years since its inception. This was disclosed by Chief Executive Officer of GCT, Zahid Saeed while speaking at the fundraiser of his non-profit for the schooling of over 30,500 children from deprived families based in underprivileged parts of Sindh. The children are enrolled in 160 charitable schools in remote and rural areas.

"On the basis of our continuous work in the past 29 years we are able to bust two very popular myths about Sindh: one is that feudal landlords of the province don't allow the opening of quality schools in their areas and secondly they oppose schooling of native girls," said Zahid Saeed. He said that GCT opened its schools in such remote and backward parts of Sindh where there was no prior government-run school. "Even then our schools never ever faced any law and order problem," he said.

He also said that GCT with support from the concerned philanthropists, its generous donors, the corporate sector, like-minded charities, and government agencies would continue with its drive to educate children from the backward areas in Sindh.

He informed the audience that the GCT had the aim to increase the number of its charitable schools to 250 having enrolment of a total of 100,000 children from destitute families till 2025.

Speaking on the occasion, GCT Patron-in-chief, and noted industrialist, Sardar Yasin Malik shared with the audience his personal story of how education had enabled him to progress from an ordinary street common man in Karachi to becoming the country's top taxpayer.

He said that education was the only way forward for the new generation of underprivileged families to come out of the vicious circle of poverty, backwardness, and exploitation.

Renowned actor Adnan Siddiqui conducted the fundraising session and get overwhelming support from the audience, comprising noted Karachi's businessmen and industrialists, for the education drive of the GCT. Mr. Siddiqui urged other top celebrities in Pakistan to come forward and join the charitable drive to enroll millions of out-of-school children in every part of the country.

IGP KP Akhtar Hayat visited Dera police lines

Adam Khan Wazir

DERA ISMAIL KHAN: Inspector General of Police Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Akhtar Hayat Khan was accompanied by Regional Police Officer Dera Abdul Ghafoor Afridi, DPO Dera Abdul Rauf Qaisrani, DPO Tank Waqar Ahmad, DPO South Waziristan Shabir Hussain on arrival at police lines Dera Ismail Khan, Police officers welcomed. On this occasion, the armed forces of Dera Police saluted, IGP Khyber Pakhtunkhwa visited the memorial martyrs in Police Lines Dera, saluted Flowers were offered and

prayers were recited for the elevation of the ranks of the martyrs.

In connection with the plantation drive in Police Lines Dera, the IGP also addressed a large gathering of officers and jawans of the Region Police in Police Lines Dera, Officers and youths of all ranks from various units of the Dera and Tank police, including the integrated tribal district of South Waziristan, participated in large numbers in the police court.

Addressing the participants of the police court, IGP Akhtar Hayat Khan said that rule of law and justice and the welfare of the police force are our top priorities. The police job is a sacred

profession and wearing the police uniform puts a heavy responsibility on the shoulders of the youth, that they should move forward as a team for the establishment of peace in the entire province, but also in the country.

The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Police Force has made a golden history by sacrificing its present for the bright future of the country and the nation, from the rank of constable to the IG rank in the war against terrorism.

The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Police have made eternal sacrifices by performing their duties in the most difficult situations by putting their precious lives on the

palm of their hands.

The entire nation appreciates the sacrifices of the police, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa is equipping the police with modern equipment and thermal i-sight TI cameras, weapons and ammunition to deal with terrorists.

He urged the participants of the Durbar to play their role in changing the traditional Thana culture by showing good manners with the people.

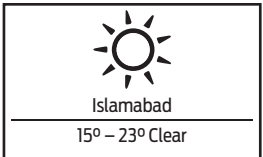
Police young men should make good morals, honesty and dedication to work their motto, Make it easy for the people and do not let patience slip away at any time, No negligence will be toler-



ated in providing services to the people. He said that all the resources will be utilized for the welfare of the police force person-

nel. On this occasion, Regional Police Officer Dera Abdul Ghafoor Afridi presented an honorary souvenir to Inspector General of Police Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Akhtar Hayat.

Later, police court Inspector General of Police presided over a high-level meeting of police officers at Regional Police Office Dera, in which RPO Dera Abdul Ghafoor Afridi gave a detailed briefing regarding the law and order situation, crime rate and challenges faced in the districts of Dera region, Tank and merged tribal district of South Waziristan.



SERVICES

Namaz Timings

Fajr 5:09 am
Zohr 12:19 pm
Asr 4:26 pm
Maghrib 6:07 pm
Isha 7:30 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
RDA 5555864
TMA 5770886
Cantonment Board 9270151-3
Islamabad Metropolitan
Corporation 9209224
Potohar Town 9209224
Rawal Town 5773343

COMPLAINTS

Water Tanker Service
E-7, F-10 & F-11 9204654
G-5, G-6, G-7, G-8 9203883
G-9, G-10, G-11, G-12, H-8 9266316

Borrow 'courage' from Nawaz Sharif, Khawaja tells Imran

City Reporter

ISLAMABAD : Defence Minister Khawaja Asif schooled on Sunday Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan, saying the latter should borrow "courage" from Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) supremo Nawaz Sharif.

Taking to Twitter, Mr Asif expressed his thoughts in connection with the potential arrest of Mr Khan, saying, "Imran is



asking his workers to court arrest. But he himself escaped from getting arrested."

He reminded Mr Khan that it was normal for the political leaders to make their sacrifices for the sake of their beliefs and ideologies."

Continuing to take a dig at Mr Khan, Mr Asif said, "The political leaders bear the difficulties of imprisonment with great respect and prestige."

Speaking about former South African President Nelson Mandela, Mr Asif said, "Imran gives the example of Nelson Mandela. But having no shame himself."

Women Rowing Championship

ISLAMABAD: Director Higher Education Commission (HEC) Dr. Shaista Sohail posing for a group photo along with students after the 9th HEC Intervarsity Women Rowing Championship at Rawal Dam, in Federal capital.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

182nd meeting of the Syndicate of Quaid-i-Azam University held

Raja Furqan Ahmed

ISLAMABAD: The Syndicate of Quaid-i-Azam University (QAU) in its 182nd meeting has authorized the university to cancel the degree of the passed-out students who are found in 'any act of indiscipline' within the university premises. According to the details, the 182nd meeting of the Syndicate of Quaid-i-Azam University (QAU) was held at QAU in which it was decided to cancel the degree of the passed-out students who are found in any act of indiscipline within the university premises. Earlier, Quaid-i-Azam University (QAU) announced its closure due to a clash among a small minor-

ity of aggressive and violent students, says a press release.

"In order to prevent any further harm, the university was closed and all students were asked to evacuate their hostels within 24 hours. As a precautionary measure, the female students' hostels were cleared on February 28 during the daytime, while the boys' hostels were not vacated. Dozens of students resisted against this notification, leading to several warnings from the administration to maintain law and order on the campus.

The involvement of outsiders in these unlawful incidents led to gross indiscipline on campus," the statement said. "The recent events have high-

lighted the need for a comprehensive policy for campus security and hostels to ensure the safety of students. We are devising a plan to address all issues, committees of senior faculty members have been formed to address the multifaceted matters disrupting academic activities from all angles," the statement added. The university will ensure that policies are in place to obviate any chance of a repeat occurrence. The cooperation of students and parents is requested in this regard to maintain a peaceful and secure environment on the QAU campus.

"We regret any inconvenience caused by the closure of the university and assure

everyone that we are working tirelessly to resolve the situation as soon as possible. The Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) administration has been involved to implement necessary measures. Further, the necessary repairs and security arrangements are underway and the university is likely to reopen in two to four weeks. Developments regarding the reopening of the campus will be communicated to all concerned on regular basis," the statement concluded. The Quaid-i-Azam University, one of the top-ranked universities in South Asian county, has been closed after fresh clashes between the administration, students and law enforcers.

Seminar and Media Briefing of Gwadar Press Club

News Desk

GWADAR :Faisal Anwar, senior coordinator of Dostan Gwadar and council member Dr. Adnan Alam, while addressing the youth at Gwadar Press Club, explained the purpose of Dostan Gwadar and while giving a briefing to the journalists, said that Gwadar is to improve the economic situation of Pakistan. The ongoing CPEC project must be completed soon. He said that the purpose of creating the platform of Friends of Gwadar is to raise voices for the rights of the people of Gwadar in a peaceful manner and there is a need to pave the way for creating such projects through which the youth here can become educated and skilled.

He said that friends of Gwadar believe that Gwadar is the key to the development of Pakistan. No one can stop the peaceful Gwadar from reaching the heights of development. The friends of Gwadar will continue their efforts in the struggle to protect the rights of the people of Gwadar and get the basic necessities of life



and will never allow anti-peace conspiracies to succeed. For this, an effective voice will be raised at the local level as well as at the provincial and federal levels. He also emphasized that as long as there is peace in any city or country, no obstacle can come in the way of its development. Ali Dawoodi Trust will support us in launching projects of short courses and practical workshops for the students of Gwadar and will also raise voices to highlight the problems of Gwadar.

InshAllah, friends of Gwadar will win your heart not by their words but by their work to solve these problems. We are sure that the people of Gwadar will support us and help to resolve all these issues in a peaceful manner by pointing out the issues. Our primary objective is to raise awareness for the social, economic, and political development of the people of Balochistan, especially the citizens and residents of Gwadar. Here is to strengthen the efforts of peace and stability and devel-

opment. Our effort will be to support the youth of Gwadar to reach the goal of social and economic self-reliance. We all know that the development of Pakistan and the prosperity of Balochistan are related to Gwadar. In this context, the people of Gwadar have to benefit from the real fruits of economic development, they will play a role in ensuring the rights and basic facilities of the people through peace and stability and the rule of law.

LHC CJ house staff returns plea to PTI lawyer seeking Imran's protective bail



News Desk

LAHORE : The Lahore High Court Chief Justice (CJ) house staff returned on Sunday the application over Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan's protective bail back to his lawyer.

The deposed premier's lawyer had submitted the plea for his [Imran's] protective bail. In this regard, the deployed officer had told the lawyer to submit the plea in the LHC, adding that the plea would not be acceptable here.

Subsequently, the PTI lawyer took back the plea. Meanwhile, the LHC registrar's office and administration could not be reached. The PTI lawyer had kept the plea outside the main door of the LHC.

Earlier today, PTI Chairman Imran Khan's legal team moved the LHC to seek a protective bail for the former premier.

In this regard, the legal team headed by Advocate Azhar Siddique filed the petition in the LHC. The legal team had prepared the petition for the protection bail after consultations.

The PTI had closed the paths surrounding Zaman Park to save the deposed premier from getting arrest.

Public support resides with PTI even before election campaign: Musarrat Cheema

Bureau Report



LAHORE :Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leader Musarrat Jamsheed Cheema said on Sunday the people of Pakistan have given their clear decision in favor of PTI even before the start of the election campaign.

In a statement on Twitter, Musarrat Cheema said the PTI chairman Imran Khan will be hosting a welcoming ceremony on Sunday in honor of those who were arrested in the Jail- cramming movement.

She further targeted the opposition parties saying that the gathering of thousands at different places to listen to Imran Khan's address was a referendum against the stubbornness of the PDM group. It is also time to get wise and announce general elections across the country, she said.

The PTI leader while lambasting the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz leadership stated that it has been heard that PML-N leader Hamza Shahbaz, who was cornered, was also persuaded to return by the lure of a big position.

Showcasing utmost confidence over PTI's victory in the forthcoming elections, she advised the opposition party to bring back the 'fugitive leader' [PML-N supremo Nawaz Sharif] so that they don't get a chance to say after the defeat that our leader was not in the country.

"Muslim League (N) should form a preliminary committee to find out the facts of the disastrous defeat in the elections," added Musarrat Cheema.

Imran uses women, workers as shield to avoid detention, says PDM

City Reporter

ISLAMABAD : Pakistan Democratic Movement Spokesperson Hafiz Hamdullah said on Sunday Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf Chief Imran Khan had been using women and PTI supporters as shield to avoid his arrest.



Giving his reaction regarding the possible arrest of Imran Khan, he said Imran should present himself in the court like an ordinary citizen and get his case proceeded as per the law if he is not involved in any theft.

Mr Hamdullah added Imran Khan lectured other people on law while he himself was running from the courts mentioning he could not become Nelson Mandela while residing in Zaman Park.

He asked where the mantra of the "equal Pakistan" of Imran Khan while also raising his opinion that on which basis the PTI tigers called Imran Khan a "brave leader".

Pak-China coop to upgrade Pakistan's steel industry: Experts

Spokesman Report

BEIJING: China can transfer its technology and equipment to Pakistan to promote the upgrading of Pakistan's steel industry, highlighted Li Sheng, General Manager of the Pakistani Branch of China First Metallurgical Group Co., Ltd.

"With China's transfer of technology and equipment, Pakistan's steel industry can be more concentrated and more environmentally friendly, because it can make better use of the existing low-quality mineral resources," Li said in an interview.

"The output of the steel industry in Pakistan is far from enough to meet the needs of its domestic market. According to Steel Statistical Yearbook, 2020 and data from World Steel Association, Pakistan's domestic demand for steel and iron averages 7.3 million tons per year, while its annual production is only 3.8 million tons.

To narrow the demand-supply gap, Pakistan has been importing from different countries, incurring excessive costs. The quality of Pakistan's mineral resources is one of the main reasons for its dependence on steel imports, China Economic Net (CEN) reported on Sunday.

"Meanwhile, the mineral resources are relatively concentrated in Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa where the situation is relatively complicated, making it difficult to well exploit the mineral resources. While on the face of it, Pakistan's steel industry is relatively backward, the overall potential for development is huge."

Li Sheng analyzed, "In the upstream, its domestic mineral resources are rich and coal and iron ore reserves are huge; in the downstream, Pakistan's real estate and construction services industry is developing rapidly, and the steel demand is increasing, which is very conducive to the development of the industry."

Pakistan has a mountainous terrain covering more than 60% of the country. Historically frequent geological activities have generated a large number of mineral resources.

Third power tariff hike in two months is unacceptable



Tariq Khattak

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Economy Watch (PEW) on Sunday said the cost of electricity has increased three times in two months due to the pressure of the IMF which is unacceptable.

The burden on the masses has been increased by almost Rs450 billion while the burden on the wealthy and the elite is not being increased, it said.

Instead of increasing the burden on the public, the theft of electricity should be stopped and bills should be collected from the users of free electricity to give some relief to the masses, said Saifuddin Sheikh, Executive Director of PEW.

In a statement issued here today, he said that the Federal Cabinet has approved the imposition of an additional burden of 335 billion rupees on the consumers by fulfilling the third condition of the IMF. A surcharge of three rupees 23 paise per unit is being imposed on the bills. The increase will be applicable to domestic, agricultural, commercial, and K-electricity consumers.

The government has already imposed a burden of Rs76 billion on electricity bills from March to June due to which the poor and the salaried class have become more vulnerable.

However, he said, there is no intention on the part of authorities to collect bills from those consuming thousands of units of free electricity.

There is no serious to reduce the theft of billions of rupees in the power sector, he said, adding that stealing power is not limited to influential people. Consuming electricity without payment is illegal and punishable by fines and imprisonment but it has not deterred the masses.

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The great Persian poet and novelist, Hakim Nizami

Hakim Nizami is the great Iranian Persian poet and novelist, who has born in the 6th century. His name was "Ilyas" and "Kaniya" was "Abu Muhammad". According to some people he was called "Nizamuddin" or "Jamaluddin". He considered himself a great spiritual mmiraculous and messianic personality.

در سحر سخن جهان تمام کینه غیب گشت نام
 شمشیر زبانه از فصیحیدارد دم مجرزه مسی

Historians differ on his date of birth and death, but his poems show that he was born in 530 AD and died in 614 AD. The reason for Nizami's fame in Persian is the creation of "Mukhmas". His "Makhmas" is interpreted as "Panj Ganj" (Five Treasures). In narration of novels, he was superior to many poets, who followed him. Hakim Nizami is a brilliant and capable poet as well as a well-known patriot. The poems he has written about the sacred name of the homeland (Iran) are like a shining essence in his precious and immortal writings. His first "Masnavi", "Makhzan-ul-Israr", contains 2260 poems. This "Masnavi" was written by Hakim Nizami a few days before his 40 years age and it is one of the most important "Masnavi" in Persian language, which includes twenty articles on sermons and wisdom. His second "Masnavi" is called "Khosrou" and "Shirin", which Nizami completed in 576 AD and contains 6500 poems of

"Atabak Shams-ud-Din Muhammad", which he presented for a wrestler known as "Ibn Eldugz". HIS third, poetry Collection is "Laila" and "Majnoon", written by Nizami in the year 584 AD, containing 4700 poems. It was compiled in the name of "SherwanshahdAbulMuzaffarAkhtan bin Manuchehr". Another "Masnavi" is "Bahram Nama" or "Haft Gmmbad" which the poet has named on the "AluddinKirpArsalan", King of "Maragha". This "Masnavi" contains 5136 poems and has written about the story of "Bahram Gore", one of the most famous Sassanid stories. Nizami's last "Masnavi" is "IskanderNamah", which consists of two parts: "SharafNamah" and "Iqbal Namah". This "Masnavi" is named on "AtabakAzamNasruddin Abu Bakr Ibn MuhammadJahan Pahlawan" which consists of 10,500 poems. In addition to "Khumasa", he has also compiled a "Diwan" of about 20,000 poems, which's only a few poems are currently available. Nizami has born in a prosperous family, a study of his works and ideas reveals that he spent his youth in learning the Holy Qur'an and religious education, as well as in seeking the intellectual and narrative information of his time. He got education in the many subjects of his time and was well versed in many sciences of his time. Due to his skill and extensive knowledge, has given him the

title of "Hakim Nizami". The most important feature of his poetic style is his innovation. Due to writing five "Masnavi" in five different styles, the great poets have written "Mukhmas" by followed him. His poetry style and his contemporaries' poetry style is considered between Khorasani and Iraqi style. If we divide Persian poetry into three styles or schools (Khorasani, Iraqi, Indian), we can say that the characteristics of the Iraqi school are more prominent in their style of expression. Nizami is one of the famous poets who presented ordinary life imagination of the people in his poems and reflected the complete morals and habits of the people of his time. His poetry represents different sections of society and is a mixture of good and evil, ugliness and beauty of the society. In creating his ideas, he has tried to describe the social events and habits as well as the common flaws and ugliness of his time in a simple, easy, understandable and comprehensible way for the common people. After Ferdowsi, Nizami rearranged his fifth "Masnavi" under the name of "Iskandername", which is in fact a continuation of Ferdowsi's work. This book consists of two parts: "Sharafnameh" and "Iqbalnameh". This "Masnavi" written for a famous contemporary poet, "AtabakAzam, Nasruddin Abu Bakr bin Muhammad Jahan Pahlawan, Atabakan" who was from Azer-

baijan. The last collection out of the five collection of Nizami, is the "Iskandername", which consists of two parts: "Sharafnameh", which has 6800 poems and the other part is "Iqbal Namah" or "Kherdnameh", which consists of 3700 poems that is named on "Nasruddin Abu Bakr bin Muhammad bin Eldigs", an examination of Hakim Nizami's life reveals that he was an undisputed expert of the Persian language and a leader of Persian novelist. Like "Saadi", "Nizami Ganjavi" also has succeed in novelizing a special and unique style and method. Although Hakim Nizami did not start novel writing in Persian, but he was the only poet who took allegorical poetry to the highest level by the end of 6th century AH. Hakim Nizami's choice of appropriate words and phrases and his uniqueness in creation of new themes and new collections and his high imagination created a new style in Persian poetry, so that Hakim Nizami could be considered as one of the greatest poets of Iran and he Keep his name unique between his fans. Nizami is the greatest poet of Persian literature. You can say that Hakim Nizami is unique to express happy moments, his language is sweet and his style is pleasant, describing the moments of the war, he has given the color of song to his poems. Hakim Nizami was bound to ethics, he is an expert in Sufi poetry, Persian literature and love stories.

Writer is Cultural Consular in Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran to Pakistan, Islamabad



Ehsan Khazaei

China sets GDP growth target at around 5 percent for 2023

Chinese Premier Li Keqiang has delivered a government work report to the opening meeting of the first session of "the 14th National People's Congress, China's national legislature" on Sunday morning at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing.

Jinping and other Chinese leaders attended the opening meeting. China has set a gross domestic product (GDP) growth target of around 5 per cent for 2023, Premier Li Keqiang said as he delivered a government work report, CGTN reported.

The country set a target to create 12 million new jobs in urban areas, with a surveyed urban unemployment rate contained at around 5.5 per cent. China surpassed its annual job creation target in 2022, and officials have stressed the importance of continuing an employment-first policy in 2023.

On inflation, China aims to anchor consumer price growth at around 3 per cent, with personal incomes generally keeping pace with the country's national growth target. Premier Li Keqiang said it's essential to prioritize economic stability and pursue progress while ensuring stability in 2023. China's proactive fiscal policy will be more effective, and a deficit-to-GDP ratio of 3 per cent is projected for the year.

China's policy of stabilizing economic growth will support the real estate market and boost investment, said Tian Huifang, a senior research fellow at the Institute of World Economics and Politics of the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences.

Tian added that the improvement in the labour market and excess savings would stimulate consumer demand.

As China welcomes a new central government leadership in 2023, Li stressed pushing forward several development priorities.

Li said China should accelerate the modernization of the industrial system by speeding up research and development and the application of cutting-edge technologies. Regarding the digital economy, Li said that China should step up regular oversight and support the development of the platform economy.

Li also stressed "unswervingly" encouraging, supporting, and guiding the development of the non-public sector. He noted deepening the reform of state-owned capital and protecting the rights and interests of entrepreneurs in accordance with the law.

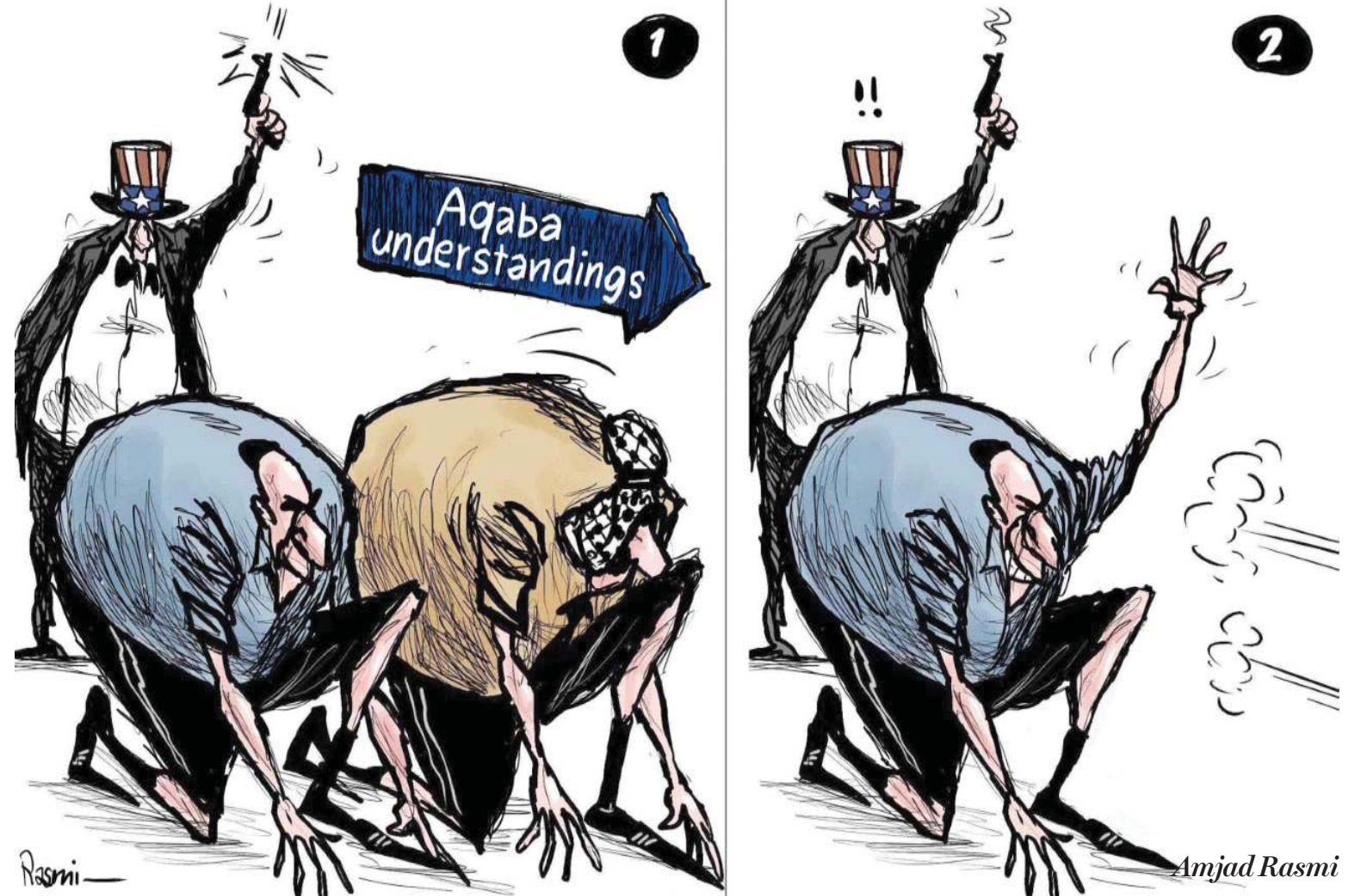
Premier Li also noted intensifying efforts to attract and utilize foreign investment. He said China should take active steps in acceding to high-standard economic and trade agreements, including the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP).

He also assured local foreign companies that China's vast and open market would provide even greater opportunities for businesses around the world.

Li also referred to preventing economic and financial risks, stabilizing grain output, continuing the transition to green development, and developing social programs in his speech.

These goals and tasks are unified and coordinated, said Dong Shaopeng, a senior research fellow at the Chongyang Institute for Financial Studies, a think-tank of the Renmin University of China.

They aim to improve the quality of China's economic growth and enhance people's living standards, all of which contribute to the stable and healthy development of the global economy, he added.



Shab e Bara'at, the night of purification from sins

Javed Ullah Raja

The eighth month of the Islamic calendar is Sha'ban. The fifteenth night of Sha'ban is known as Shab e Bara'at. It has many other names, including Laylat al-Rahmat, Laylat al-Mubarakah and Laylat al-Bara'at. Shab e Bara'at is, it is the night of deliverance.

Insha Allah, this night will begin after (Ghroub e aftar) on the evening of Tuesday, 7, March 2023, and will continue until the early morning (Subhu sadiq) of Wednesday, 8, March 2023.

The Holy Prophet (peace be upon him) said that the month of Ramadan is Allah's and Sha'ban is my month. The fifteenth night of Shaban al-Mu'zam is a night of great virtue, blessing, and dignity. It is called Shab e Bara'at. On this night, Allah Subhanahu Wa Ta'ala appears at the lowest heavenly world. There is a tradition that the Prophet Hazrat Muhammad (peace be upon him) used to make this dua after seeing the moon of Shaban al-Mu'zam. Translation: "O Allah! Bless us in the month of Rajab and Sha'ban and make us reach Ramadan with goodness and peace. In the Quran Allah (swt) says:

"Surely, we have sent it down in the blessed Night. Surely, we are the Warner. In this (Night) judgment is given on all matters of wisdom (separately) by Our Command." (Al-Quran, 44:3-5)

Hazrat Aisha (may Allah be pleased with her) says: I have not seen the Holy Prophet (peace be upon him) fasting in any other month except Ramadan in the month of Sha'ban. Hazrat Aisha (may Allah be pleased with her) said: The Messenger of Allah (peace be upon him) said, 'Aisha, you know

what kind of night this is. That is, the night of the middle of Sha'ban the child that is born in this year. His name is written down. And the numbers of people who are going to die throughout the year their names are written down. And in this night the provisions of the servants are revealed.

Hazrat Aisha (ra), states: that the Holy Prophet (peace be upon him) asked: "Do you know what happens this night?" meaning the middle night of Shaban (that is, Shab-e-Bara'at). She submitted: "O Allah's Messenger (peace be upon him) what happens in it?" He replied: "In it record is made of every human being who will be born, and of every human being who will pass away this year. In it their deeds are taken up to heaven and in it their provisions are sent down." (Baihaqi)

Narrated by Hazrat Aisha (ra), I missed Allah's Messenger (peace be upon him) during the night and found him in Al-Baqi (Graveyard in Madina) He (peace be upon him) said: Were you afraid that Allah and his Messenger (peace be upon him) would deal unjustly with you? I said: Allah's Messenger (peace be upon him) I thought that you (peace be upon him) had gone to some of your other wives. He (the Prophet) (peace be upon him) said: Verily Allah, the Exalted and Glorious, comes down to the heaven of the world in "the middle night of Sha'ban" and forgives sins even more abundant than the hair of the goats of Kalb. (Tirmidhi, Ibn Majah)

The Prophet (peace be upon him) also said to Aisha (ra), Allah descends on the night of the middle of Sha'ban to the lowest heaven, and He forgives more than the numbers of hairs on the sheep of Banu Kalb (an Arab tribe renowned for their great flocks of sheep). (Ibn Majah and others)

The Prophet (peace be upon him) said

that on this night, from sunset until dawn, Allah asks His servants, Is there anyone seeking forgiveness from Me so that I may forgive him? Is there anyone seeking provision from Me so I may provide for him? Is there anyone suffering so I may relieve his suffering? (Ibn Majah)

Hazrat Ata bin Yasar (ra) says: "There is no better night than the fifteenth night of Sha'ban after Lailat al-Qadar." The fourteenth of Sha'ban begins at sunset and lasts until the dawn of the fifteenth of Sha'ban.

On this night, every Muslim arrangement should be made to perform the Isha and Fajr prayers in congregation, perform prayers (nawafil), remember Allah, recite the Qur'an, and spend as much time as possible in worship. Those sins deprive us of the blessings of this night. Apart from wasting time and money on the loud noise, firecrackers, and fireworks, as because the people engaged in worship, innocent children, and guests. Allah should be pleased instead of hurting the old and the sick.

Scholars say that Allah (swt) appears in the heavenly world on five occasions. There are four nights and one day. The four nights, Eid al-Fitr, Eid al-Zuha, Shab al-Qadar and Shab e Bara'at, and one day during Hajj is the Day of Arafat.

This is the holy night that is going to change our condition. If we save ourselves from vain deeds this night and repent sins to Allah. There is an opportunity to do so. It is a way to get out of hardship and misery. Shab e Bara'at before Ramadan is a call to love and obey Allah and His Messenger (peace be upon him). Therefore, keep yourself engaged in worship as much as possible during the night. Let it happen that our future decisions are being written and we are enjoying our sleeps.

International Day of Disarmament offers no hope to Kashmiris

Spokesman Report

Antonio Guterres has said that "Eliminating nuclear weapons would be the greatest gift we could bestow on future generations. On this important day, (March 5th: International Day of Disarmament) let us commit to forging a new consensus around defusing the nuclear threat for good and achieving our shared goal of peace." The Secretary General of the United Nations and those who are interested in the world peace, know it well that Kashmir is the only international conflict which can bring two rival countries - India and Pakistan - to the brink of nuclear catastrophe, said Dr. Ghulam Nabi Fai, Chairman, 'World Forum for Peace & Justice'. Fai quoted President Bill Clinton who said that Kashmir was the most dangerous place on earth; and former Prime Minister of New Zealand, Helen Clark who said, "Kashmir is a nuclear flashpoint."

Dr. Fai suggested that let's get a quick snapshot of the problem: If you had half a dozen soldiers from a foreign country stalking your neighborhood block day and night, watching you every move, noting when you come and go, who your children are playing with, and who you talk to in your neighborhood, demolishing your houses, changing the demography of your state? What would you think if occasionally you would see these soldiers arrest one of your neighbors and then go into his house, ransack it and dishonor the womenfolk? What's your take if another neighbor came out and complained to the soldiers and they simply shot him on the spot, labeling him a threat under the Armed Forces Special Powers Act (AFSPA), which is nothing more than a license to kill? How would you feel when you know

that this kind of thing isn't an occasional incident that happens once every six months or even once a month. This is daily life in Indian occupied Kashmir? How would you feel except to resist the occupation? There is a resistance smoldering beneath the surface of this occupation that belies every notion that India is actually in control and managing its colonial possession.

"The cry for azadi (Freedom) has simply gotten louder. As such the level of tensions between India and Kashmir; and India and Pakistan show few signs of letting up any time soon. It has been consistently a witch's brew that has done nothing but engender evil throughout the whole region," Fai warned.

India continues to create convenient excuses to ignore the people's demands for self-determination. But ignoring the decades old problem of refusing to resolve the question of Kashmiri sovereignty and self-determination has not only led to deep unrest among the Kashmiris; it has also led to two wars between India and Pakistan. That they are now both nuclear-armed states raise the stakes dramatically and calls for action to defuse these tensions immediately.

Perhaps it's time the world powers, particularly, the United States take this seriously. The answer is plain as day for anyone. Kashmir has international legitimacy, having numerous UN Security Council resolutions which have given the right to self-determination to the people to decide their destiny. They should once and for all be honored. The clock is ticking. Every day that passes without resolution of Kashmir dispute is one day closer to a cataclysm that will reach far beyond the borders of all countries involved.

(Dr. Fai can be reached at: WhatsApp: 1-202-607-6435, gnfai2003@yahoo.com)

Indonesian Ambassador encourages Pakistani students to avail scholarships

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Indonesian Ambassador to Pakistan Adam M. Tugio on Sunday has said that there are enormous scholarship opportunities for Pakistani students in Indonesia because many universities offer full scholarships to Pakistani students. He made these remarks while visiting a two-day International Education Summit 2023, on 4-5 March 2023 to promote the education system in Indonesia and provide access to information on scholarships being offered by universities in Indonesia. Ambassador Tugio said that the expo is also a good opportunity for the Embassy since it can introduce some best universities in Indone-



sia. The event is organized by the Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce Industry (RCCI) with the objective to inspire Pakistani students with great educational prospects in Pakistan. Ambassador Tugio commended the initiative of RCCI in organising the

first-ever educational expo and underscored the important role of the university. He encouraged business community to play proactive role by connecting innovations from university labs to the markets. Speaking on the occasion, the President of RCCI, Saqib Rafiq reminded the audience

that to have a strong economy, it is very important to first make Pakistan academia stronger. "Although we have brilliant students, they need to have proper guidance so that they could excel to their full potential", he added. The Embassy's stall attracted the interest of students from the twin cities who sought detailed information on educational systems in Indonesia and scholarships being offered by universities in Indonesia, including those from five of the world-class best Indonesian universities based on the QS World Ranking 2023, namely Gajah Mada University (UGM), Institute of Technology Bandung (ITB), University of Indonesia (UI), Airlangga University (UNAIR), and Bogor Agriculture University (IPB). Representatives from the Embassy assisted students with free advising services that entail offering accurate, comprehensive, and up-to-date information about opportunities to study at over 30 accredited Indonesian universities. More than 30 stalls have been set up representing the best universities in Pakistan as well as some world-leading universities, colleges, and reputable education consultancies, including NUST, The Millennium Universal College, University of Management Technology, SI-UK, as students sought information to enroll in the top-ranked Pakistani and international universities.

Saudi embassy announces video competition

ABC

ISLAMABAD: Saudi Ambassador Nawaf bin Said Al Malki said the 'Pak-Saudi relations' had always been a fascinating and beautiful topic throughout history. Taking to his Twitter handle, he said the Saudi embassy was looking forward to the creativity of Pakistani youth as it had announced a short video competition on 'Pak-Saudi Relations' to hunt the talent. According to the Saudi embassy's official Twitter handle account, it is organizing this healthy competition to mark the 70th anniversary of the visit of the "first President Ghulam Muhammad" [sic] to Saudi Arabia made in March 1953 and his meeting with King Abdulaziz. As per conditions to participate in the competition, the contestant's age must not be more than 30 years; the duration of the video must be of two minutes focusing on the central theme of Pak-Saudi Relations; and it can be either in Arabic, Urdu or English language. The last date of video submission is March 10, and the video can be emailed to mediaattacheksa@gmail.com or on WhatsApp number +92 325 3111014. The first prize holder would be awarded \$2,000; the second prize holder \$1,500; the third \$1,000 and from the fourth to tenth \$500.

Minhaj University Lahore & Kasetsart University Thailand signed MOU



ABC

LAHORE: Another MOU signing ceremony was held at Kasetsart University Thailand regarding joint research between Minhaj University Lahore, Pakistan and Kasetsart University Thailand. Prof Dr Sajid Mehmood Shahzad Vice Chancellor Minhaj University Lahore gave a detailed presentation about MUL prior signing of the MoU. Prof Dr Suphattharachai Chomphan, A president Kasetsart University along with prof Dr Sarinya Sanitwong na Ayutthaya Dean Faculty of International Maritime Studies were also present at the ceremony. To start with, collaboration will be held between Faculty of International Maritime Studies KU Thailand and Centre of Research and Innovation on Maritime Affairs (CRIMA) at MUL on Blue Economy. At the end of the ceremony VC MUL Presented a traditional Sindhi Ajrak to the president and Dean of the KU Thailand.

China's past 5 years truly momentous, remarkable

Xinhua

BEIJING: The past five years for China have been truly momentous and remarkable as the country has met numerous tests and made major achievements in economic and social development, according to a government work report submitted Sunday to the national legislature for deliberation.



China's GDP increased to 121 trillion yuan (about 17.5 trillion U.S. dollars), registering an annual growth rate of 5.2 percent during the period, it said, adding that the country achieved a medium-high rate of economic growth given its large economic aggregate and transitioned to high-quality development. With eight years of efforts, close to 100 million poor

rural residents and a total of 832 impoverished counties were lifted from poverty, including more than 9.6 million poverty-stricken people relocated from inhospitable areas, said the report. Fruitful gains were made in scientific and technological innovation, with spending on R&D increasing from 2.1 percent to over

2.5 percent of GDP and the contribution of scientific and technological progress to economic growth exceeding 60 percent. The economic structure was further improved. Digital economy continued to grow in strength. The value-added output of new industries and new business forms and models accounted

for over 17 percent of GDP, the report said.

The country further upgraded infrastructure, with the length of in-service high-speed railways increasing from 25,000 km to 42,000 km.

Over the past five years, China deepened reform and opening up across the board to create a new pattern of development, and made a notable improvement in the business environment.

The ecological environment was significantly improved as energy consumption per unit of GDP dropped by 8.1 percent, and carbon dioxide emissions per unit of GDP fell by 14.1 percent.

People's living standards rose steadily, with personal income growing generally in step with economic growth, said the report.

Chinese central gov't to maintain lasting prosperity, stability in HK, Macao: report

Xinhua

BEIJING: The Chinese central government will support Hong Kong and Macao in growing their economies and improving people's lives, and maintain long-term prosperity and stability in the two regions, according to a government work report on Sunday.

The report submitted to the national legislature for deliberation pledged efforts to fully, faithfully and resolutely implement the policy of "one country, two systems," under which the people of Hong Kong administer Hong Kong and the people of Macao administer Macao, both with a high degree of autonomy.

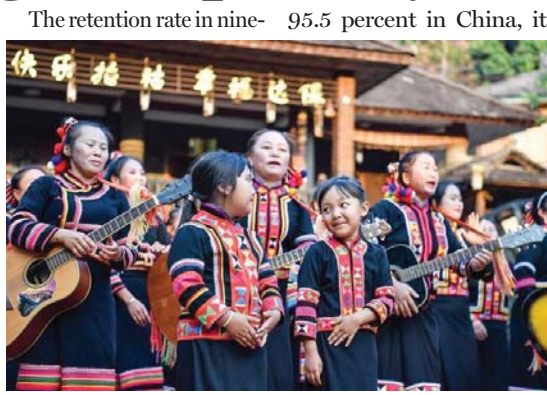
It said the central government will remain committed to law-based governance in Hong Kong and Macao, and ensure that constitutional order in the two regions is upheld as stipulated in China's Constitution and the basic laws of the two regions, and that Hong Kong and Macao are administered

China steadily improves people's wellbeing over past 5 years: report

Xinhua

BEIJING: China took concrete steps to improve the people's wellbeing and accelerated the development of social programs over the past five years, according to a government work report submitted Sunday to the national legislature for deliberation.

The country kept annual budgetary spending on education at over 4 percent of GDP and realized a significant increase in spending per student, the report said.



The retention rate in nine-year compulsory education rose from 93.8 percent to

95.5 percent in China, it said. Annual per capita government subsidies for basic medical insurance for rural and non-working urban residents increased from 450 yuan to 610 yuan. A greater number of urgently needed medicines were approved for reimbursement under the basic medical insurance scheme, according to the report.

China also increased basic pension benefits for retirees for several years running and raised the minimum basic old-age benefits for rural and non-working urban residents, the report said.

Greece tragedy: Protests continue as burial of victims begins

LARISSA: Demonstrators held more rallies on Saturday to protest the causes of Greece's worst-ever train disaster, as the first of the crash victims were laid to rest.

Thousands of protesters have taken to the streets across the country since Tuesday's collision between a passenger train and a freight train, which killed at least 57 people.

A court appearance for the station master implicated in the disaster was postponed by a day, and public anger is growing over the government's failure to ensure rail network safety.

More protests took place in several cities Saturday evening, with hundreds turning out in Athens and Thessaloniki.

A rally of students and railway employees has been called for on Sunday in the capital's Syntagma Square, next to parliament, which was the scene of clashes on Friday night. The first burials of victims of the crash began Saturday, and relatives of the dead are expected to gather on Sunday for a memorial outside Larissa station near the site of the disaster in central Greece.

"What happened was not an accident, it was a crime," said protester Sophia Hatzopoulou, 23, a philosophy student in Thessaloniki. "We can't watch all this happen and remain indifferent."

At least nine young people studying at Thessaloniki's Aristotle University were among those killed on the train, which was carrying many students returning from a holiday weekend.

The station master at Larissa, central Greece, whose identity has not been made public, has admitted responsibility for the accident, which saw the two trains run along the same track for several kilometres.

Govt committed to promoting agriculture, livestock in AJK: PM

Abdul Majeed Tahir

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Azad Jammu and Kashmir, Sardar Tanveer Ilyas Khan, has said that the present government has taken effective measures to promote agriculture and livestock at the state level.

The PM said that a comprehensive policy has been evolved to put the liberated territory on the path of prosperity and self-sufficiency.

In order to create public awareness, the PM said that the government had already announced to observe agriculture week all across the state from April 1 to April 7. "Similarly, Fish week will be observed from 15 to 27 March", the PM said.

Stressing the need for improving agriculture, he said that the government would utilize all its available resources to encourage farmers.

In his special statement, the Prime Minister said that a "Save farmers campaign" would be launched in which all measures regarding the promotion of crops and breeding of animals would be taken at the government level.



"Improving the lives of farmers in Azad Kashmir is our government's top priority", he said.

He said that the government would provide special incentives to farmers. "Children of farmers would be given admission in medical, engineering colleges and universities.

The PM said that the farmers' hard work and dedication can play an important role in making the region prosperous and self-sufficient.

In order to preserve the agricultural land, he said that there would be a complete ban on construction on agricultural lands in the AJK. "A penalty worth fifty thousand rupees per kanal

per year will be charged against the farmers who fail to bring their cultivable and fertile land for agricultural purposes", he said.

He said that steps would be taken to grow fruit trees in Azad Kashmir. "In the next three to four years, Azad Kashmir will have all kinds of fruits produced at the local level", he added. Kitchen gardening, he said, would be made compulsory so that people can produce organic vegetables for household use.

The PM said that a special day would also be celebrated in schools and colleges of Azad Kashmir to create awareness about the preservation of wildlife and promotion of livestock.

He said that silk worms would be distributed free of cost to the people.

Regarding the uplift of the rural economy, the prime minister said, "Cows, buffaloes, goats and angora rabbits will also be distributed free of cost to the people". The PM said that the government would take every initiative that it deems fit to meet the requirements of meat and pulses in Azad Kashmir, he concluded.

China improves ethnic, religious work over past 5 years: report

Xinhua

BEIJING: China has created new ways to improve work related to ethnic groups, religious affairs and overseas Chinese over the past five years, according to a government work report made public Sunday.

Fresh headway has been achieved in ethnic solidarity and progress, and religions in China have been further adapted to the Chinese context, said the report submitted to the national legislature for deliberation.

Efforts have also been made to give full play to the unique strengths and important role of overseas Chinese nationals in China's modernization drive, according to the report.

Shaheen Dar and Dr. Nagina appreciated positive efforts of Aasma Butt



News Desk

ISLAMABAD: President of All Pakistan Chinese Overseas Youth Federation Aasma Ismail Butt said that we all have to represent women who are capable but suffer from limited resources, the government and institutions should provide facilities and resources to our women according to their abilities.

President of All Pakistan Chinese Overseas Youth Federation, Aasma Ismail Butt, People's Party leader and former Deputy Speaker Azad Jammu and Kashmir Shaheen Kausar Dar and Lions Club member Dr. Nagina Sadaf met in her office, where they appreciated positive efforts of Aasma Ismail Butt. And said that more than half of the population of Pakistan consists of women, women are equal participants in the development of the country, we pay tribute to Aasma Ismail Butt for being the voice of brave and capable women. During the important meeting, Federation President Aasma Ismail Butt thanked People's Party leader and former Deputy Speaker Azad Jammu and Kashmir Shaheen Kausar Dar and Lions Club member Dr. Nagina Sadaf for their visit. Aasma Ismail Butt said that we all have to represent such women who, despite being capable, are suffering from deprivation due to limited resources. Women hold a unique position due to their positive character and attitudes along with maintaining beautiful relationships like mother, sister, daughter, wife.

Government and institutions should respect our women as well as recognize their professional services and provide them with facilities so that they can perform their duties with satisfaction and confidence.

Economy nosedives due to poor policies, mismanagement: BMP

News Desk

LAHORE: The Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce & Industry's Businessmen Panel (BMP) on Sunday said that the country's economy has nosedived partly due to external factors but majorly due to non-serious and poor domestic policy decisions and mismanagement of the economic managers, as the rupee saw yet another dramatic fall in just over a month, plummeting 6.66% while the key interest rate have been escalated by the central bank by 300 basis points to the record historic level of 20%, which will destroy the economy completely.

Asking the authorities to include serious and progressive fiscal reforms in the IMF program FPCCI former president and BMP Chairman Mian Anjum Nisar observed that it is very clear that IMF programs focus on stabilization and crisis management rather than growth-oriented policies that require structural reforms.

He stressed need for a revisit of government policies including the coordination exercise between the Ministry of Finance and SBP, as no independent economist could support the economic policies that are currently in place.

Flour price reaches up to Rs2,800/20-kg bag in Quetta

News Desk

QUETTA : Amid a shortage of flour, the 20-kg bag of flour is being sold between Rs2,640 to 2,800 in Balochistan's capital of Quetta.

The price of flour is skyrocketing in Quetta due to the shortage of commodities. Sensing the opportunity, the profiteers have become active and selling the flour bag of 20kg between Rs2,640 to 2,800 in Quetta and its adjoining areas.

The residents of Quetta said that they are unable to get the flour at the government's fixed rate and are compelled to buy the commodity at an excessive price.

The residents of the area have demanded of the provincial government to take action against the profiteers and ensure the availability of the flour.

Meanwhile, the President of Flour Mills Association Balochistan, Nasir Agha said the supply of wheat to the mills is suspended for the last ten days.

"Masses are paying the price of the incompetence of the Balochistan food department," he added.

Indonesia's inflation to stay above 5% in first half of 2023 -bank chief

Spokesman Report

JAKARTA : Indonesia's inflation will remain above 5 per cent in the first half of 2023 and below 4 per cent in the second half, mainly due to high food prices, central bank governor Perry Warjiyo said on Sunday, warning that the fight to control inflation must continue.

"The game is not over, let us together anticipate inflation mainly food inflation," Perry said at an event on Makassar, in South Sulawesi, where he urged local authorities to work with the central government to reduce inflationary pressures.

"We must control inflation because it relates to people's prosperity and welfare," he said. "Let's strengthen synergy amongst stakeholders to control inflation."

Indonesia's Consumer Price Index rose 5.47 per cent on a yearly basis in February, largely due to rising prices for fuel, rice, cigarettes and air travel, though core inflation unexpectedly slowed to 3.09 per cent.

Prices of food, mainly rice and cooking oil, rose in most provinces during the past month, Perry said, and they are expected to rise further in coming weeks due to high demand ahead of the Muslim fasting month of Ramadan later this month and the Eid al-Fitr festival in April.

The virtual talks are going on to fetch another tranche of EFF

News Desk

LAHORE : The Shehbaz-led government is likely to resume virtual talks with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) on Monday to sort out upcoming expenditures and revenues and the stalled agreement for the release of fresh tranche under the ninth review of the Extended Fund Facility (EFF).

Led by its Pakistan mission chief Nathan Porter, the IMF team held talks with finance ministry officials for a couple of days, followed by a last meeting with tax officials on Friday to review the impact of prior actions in terms of revenue generation and their impact on bridging fiscal gaps.

PM, CEO Qatar Investment Authority discuss investment opportunities

Spokesman Report

DOHA: Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Qatar Investment Authority Mansoor Ebrahim Al-Mahmoud called on Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif here on Sunday to exchange views on progress made on various investment proposals in multiple sectors of Pakistan's economy.

During the meeting, Al-Mahmoud and Prime Minister Sharif highlighted investment opportunities in the energy and infrastructure sectors of Pakistan.

It may be recalled that a detailed discussion had been initiated between the two sides during the Prime Minister's visit to Qatar in August 2022.

The Qatar Investment Authority has expressed a keen interest in investing in LNG



power plants, airports, and solar power parks in Pakistan.

Al-Mahmoud also concurred with the Prime Minister regarding the importance of bilateral trade and investment between Qatar and Pakistan while expressing his desire to strengthen their bilateral economic ties.

Prime Minister Sharif thanked Al-Mahmoud for his interest in enhancing cooperation with Pakistan in the economic sphere and invited Qatari investors to take advantage of the investment-friendly policies of the Pakistani government.

Both countries remain optimistic about working closely to translate existing understandings to strengthen their economic ties and further diversify them in the future in line with Qatar's Vision 2030.

TIFA meeting agreed for regular follow up engagements to ensure progress: Naveed Qamar

Commerce Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Commerce Minister Naveed Qamar said that the meeting of the Pakistan-US Trade and Investment Framework Agreement (TIFA) Ministerial Council had agreed to have regular follow-up engagements during 2023 to ensure progress on all issues to achieve tangible results, whereas it was also agreed to convene the next TIFA Council Ministerial meeting in Islamabad in early 2024.

In a statement issued here Sunday, the minister said that the meeting reflected the mutual understanding and commitment of Pakistan and United States to pursue a broad-based agenda.

Expressing satisfaction over the high-level dialogues in various sectors including energy, and climate change, the



minister said that the series of dialogues reflected that Pakistan was being seen as a sovereign trading partner of the United States.

"United States is an important country for us and we want our relations to further grow in all possible areas," he added.

Commerce Minister said that he had a fulsome and comprehensive dialogue with the United States Trade Representative

enhancing exports of Pakistani mangoes and dates to the US, increased market access for Pakistan's textiles, increasing US investments in Pakistan's agriculture sector especially in the development of hybrid, climate-resilient seeds and supporting Pakistan's IT and tech industry.

Talking about the economic challenges being faced by the country, the minister said that Pakistan has taken tough decisions to revive IMF program.

The minister expressed the hope that with formal approval of revival of the program by IMF Board, the reserves would increase with inflow from friendly countries and international banks. He, however, stated that the revival of the program alone was not a panacea for all ills. "We need structural reforms. Our processes need to be changed," he remarked.

He said that the two sides discussed key issues including

BISP beneficiaries to get 25% increase in quarterly installment: Faisal Kundi



Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD : Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Poverty Alleviation and Social Safety Faisal Karim Kundi on Sunday said the beneficiaries of Benazir Income Support Program (BISP) would get 25 per cent increase in quarterly installments from March as per the government efforts to extend relief to the masses of the country.

Addressing a press conference, the SAPM said that Benazir Income Support Program (BISP) is providing relief to 8.9 million people across the country and decided to increase the number of quarterly installments keeping in view of the suffering of people of Pakistan owing to the current inflation.

He said that the government is also providing subsidies on essential food items through Utility Stores Corporation to the beneficiaries of BISP aiming to

extend the maximum relief to the vulnerable segment of the society.

Talking about the Dynamic Registry survey, Faisal Kundi said that survey has been inaugurated in all districts across the country including Gilgit-Baltistan and Kashmir to identify and register more deserving beneficiaries living below the poverty line.

He said that all the people who do not have BISP cards can visit Dynamic Registry offices adding that it is not a door to door survey and intended beneficiaries have to visit survey offices for the registration.

Faisal Kundi said that the present government is fully cognizant of the suffering of the people of Pakistan and has serious concerns about inflation which is effecting the downtrodden segments mostly.

He at the outset also lauded the efforts and working of BISP team and said that in case of any grievance the beneficiaries could register their complaint in the district offices and we are committed to resolve the issues within 24 hours.

Fry Fish

KARACHI: A vendor is selling fry fish at roadside setup as waiting for customer at Cantt Station, in Provincial Capital.



Photo: Online

Rupee depreciation takes heavy toll on investors in Feb 2023

News Desk

LAHORE : Pakistan Stock Exchange lost Rs1.2 trillion in the second month of 2023, while the total finance of PSX now stands at Rs62.7 trillion from the previous 63.9 trillion.

In February 2023, the dollar lost Rs six when compared with the rupee and due to this reason, the rate of dollar in the inter-bank reduced to Rs262 from Rs262.

The reduction in the dollar affected the PSX. The total volume of PSX increased to \$23.9 billion from \$23.8 billion. Hence,

the increase in the rupee value in February increased the PSX volume by \$11 million.

In February, the SE 100 index of PSX reduced by 163 points to 40,510 however, KSE 30 index reduced by 3 points to 15,187.

The investors lost Rs83.8 billion on February 10 when KSE 100 index saw reduction in 725 points. However, investors gained profit of Rs1.1 trillion on February 9.

Pertinent is to mention here that the investors lost Rs44.1 billion on the last day of February 2023 when KSE 100 index witnessed reduction in 274 points.

ICCI for capitalizing on export potential of Gilgit Baltistan's dry fruit

Tariq Khattak

ISLAMABAD : President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, said that Gilgit-Baltistan region can earn millions of dollars from the export of almonds, walnuts, apricots, cherries and many other dry fruits, as the annual production of almonds alone in the region is over 120,000 tons, so he demanded that the government should extend full cooperation to the private sector in promoting the export of dry fruits to potential markets. He expressed these views while talking to Gilgit-Baltistan Minister for IT and former FPCCI Vice President Mohammad Ali Quaid and Group Lead-

er of Gilgit-Baltistan Chamber of Commerce Qurban Ali during their visit to ICCI. Former President ICCI and Secretary General UBG Zafar Bakhtawari was also present on this occasion.

Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari said that the dry fruits are in demand around the world, so he emphasized that the economy of the region can be improved by capitalizing on this export potential of Gilgit-Baltistan. He assured that ICCI will provide all possible support in promoting business and investment in Gilgit-Baltistan and solving the problems of the business community of the region.

Gilgit-Baltistan Minister for IT and former Vice President FPCCI Muhammad Ali Quaid said that



CPEC has increased the importance of Gilgit-Baltistan and this historic project ushers in a new era of development in the region. He said

that many new opportunities can be created for the youth by promoting IT in the region and many projects are under consideration for this purpose.

Gilgit-Baltistan Chamber of Commerce Group Leader Qurban Ali said that Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Gilgit-Baltistan Chamber of Commerce should focus on solving the problems of the business community of both regions through close cooperation, thereby improving business activities in both regions. Will be promoted. In the meeting, Various options were discussed to advance business, social, cultural and diplomatic relations between Islamabad and Gilgit-Baltistan.

Rumanza Open Golf Championship

By Tahir Amin Malik

MULTAN: The 1st edition of the Rumanza Open Golf Championship backed by DHA Multan came to a successful conclusion at the Rumanza Golf Course, Multan eagerly watched by school children, golf playing enthusiasts and young golfers who seek golf as career. They viewed the playing capabilities of the champion golf professional, Ahmed Baig and how through brilliantly consistent golf play ensured a triumphant result for himself in this Open Golf Championship which carried a lucrative prize money of twelve million rupees plus a winning trophy that was uplifting and rewarding.

Ahmed Baig was in absolute control of the proceedings and 18 holes run of play in the final round on Sunday and every shot made certain his advance to a vibrant outcome. In the opening nine holes of the front nine Ahmed birdied holes 2, 5 and 9, had pars on holes 1, 3, 6, 7 and 8 and lost a stroke on the par 3, 4th hole. A total of 34 represented high quality play, free of nerves and gifted control over every aspect of his game. His adversaries like Minhaj Maqsood, a golf professional of immense talent and the battle hardened M. Shahzad just went along, not seeking to outclass Ahmed Baig but looking for positions other than the first. On the back nine of



this wonderful Rumanza Golf Course that has such fabulous fairways, the run of play followed a similar pattern. Ahmed Baig golfed his way to ultimate triumph through precise shot making and exceptional handling of the putter on the greens.

As a result of a stately par on the closing 18th hole, Ahmed Baig established ascendancy over many established stars of the game with his acquired capabilities and gift of Nature. His scores for the four rounds were 70, 67, 70 and 73 and a championship total of 280, eight under par. Certainly a deserving achievement and he looks all set to dominate

the golf scene of Pakistan and also plans to make his presence agreeable in the Asian Development Tour where he will be contesting in three championship events, this month and in April 2023.

Other golf champions who played with a resolve and firmness of purpose are Muhammed Minhaj Maqsood of Rawalpindi Golf Club, Muhammed Shahzad of Lahore Garrison and Muhammed Munir of Rawalpindi. Minhaj earned the honor of ending up as the runner up in Professionals Category with distinction oriented score of 287, one under par. Muhammed Munir and Muhammed Shahzad were bracketed at the third position.

Their scores for the championship were similar. A total aggregate of 289, one over par.

Some others who did fine are Muhammed Naeem (Peshawar) attaining the 5th position, Muhammed Ashfaq (Airmen), sixth position, Shahid Javed Khan (Gymkhana) seventh position, Ashiq Hussain (Multan) eighth position, Syed Raza Ali (Rumanza) ninth position and Abdul Zahoor (Multan) tenth position.

Race for honors in amateur category was won by Salman Jehangir (Lahore Gymkhana). His score was 296. Second position went to Qasim Ali Khan, also of Gymkhana with a score of 303 followed by Hussain Hamid (Royal Palm), his score being 310. At a score of 311 were Saad Habib (Rumanza) and Umair Saleem (Garrison Greens).

Senior amateur section performer was Umair Butt and veterans section youthfulness one was Tariq Habib Malik who came up with a champion like performance.

Winning senior professional was Pervaiz Khan of Airmen Golf Club.

At the conclusion of the 1st Rumanza Open Golf Championship the prizes were distributed to the performers by Lt Gen (r) Qazi Muhammed Ikram, President, Pakistan Golf Federation along with Brig Fayyaz Sial, Secretary, Rumanza Golf Club, Col Habib Malik, Project Secretary, DHA, participating golfers and families.

Pakistan Army lifts Men's, and Women's title of Combaxx-Roshan Khan National Team Squash C'ship

By Arif Hafeez

KARACHI: In a superb display of talent, Army players, were in command all through the event, and won both Men and Women's finals of the Combaxx-Roshan Khan National Team Squash Championship organized by Pakistan Navy in collaboration with Combaxx Sports at Pakistan Navy Roshan Khan Jahangir Khan Squash Complex, Karachi. Wapda players also shone on the court and emerged as ultimate runners-up.

The following are the results of the finals, both men's and women's and other position matches played on the fifth and final day of the coveted tournament:

In Men's Final, Army beat Wapda 2-1.

Farhan Mehboob Lost to Hamza Khan 9-11, 4-11, 6-11 (23 mins) while Wapda's Nasir Iqbal Beat Sadam Ul Haq 11-1, 11-8, 11-5 (21 mins), and Noor Zaman Lost to Army's Ashab Irfan 3-11, 2-11, 7-11 (20 mins)

WAPDA emerged as the ultimate



runners-up while the third position went to KP & PUNJAB

Balochistan won fifth place while 6th Position went to the Navy, and Sindh could win 7th Position.

In the Women's Final, Army thumped WAPDA 2-0.

Sammar Anjum Lost to Amna Malik 11-4, 10-12, 9-11, 6-11 (34 mins) while Noor Ul Ain Lost to Mariam Malik 6-11, 13-11, 5-11, 8-11 (34 mins).

Women's Final Standing:

Gold for ARMY, Silver for WAPDA and Bronze for Sindh & Punjab.

In the Position 5-7 Contests, the Navy down Balochistan 2-1.

Abdul Waqar Beat Syed Saad 11-3, 11-4, 11-3 (9 mins), While Jahanzab Yousaf Lost Anas Khan 3-11, 11-8, 10-12, 6-11 (19 mins) and Muzhar Ali Lost Awais Youas 1-11, 8-11, 7-11 (16 mins)

Squash Legend and former World No. 1 Jahangir Khan was the Chief Guest at the medals ceremony and gave trophies and other individual prizes.

Mr Omar Saeed, CEO COMBAXX Sports, Mr Adnan Asad, President SSA, Lt Cdr Ramatullah, Media Advisor Pakistan Olympic Association Asif Azcem, General Manager Combaxx Sports Zubair Macha, Tournament referee Naveed Alam, and Tournament director Tahir Jameel Khanzada were also present on the occasion.

Speaking on the occasion, Jahangir Khan lauded the zeal shown by players during the entire event and advised them to focus on their game and sheer talent so that they can shine as world-class players to regain lost glories in squash for the country once again.

Rizwan, Haris receive ICC T20I team of the year caps

By A Sports -

LAHORE: Mohammad Rizwan and Haris Rauf have received their commemorative caps for the International Cricket Council's (ICC) T20I Team of the Year.

The two players were named in the ICC T20I Team of the Year for 2022 in January.

Taking to Twitter, Pakistan Cricket Board on Sunday shared pictures of Rizwan and Haris, holding the ICC caps.

The ICC Team of the Year recognises 11 outstanding individuals who have impressed one and all – be it with the bat, the ball or their all-around exploits in a calendar year.

Rizwan smashed 10 half-centuries last year in the shortest format and finished as the joint-highest scorer for Pakistan at the T20 World Cup with 175 runs.

He gathered a staggering 996 runs in 2022 and held on to the opening slot alongside England's Jos Buttler in the ICC T20I Team of the Year for the second year in a row.

Meanwhile, Haris Rauf, who earned the repute of 'death overs specialist' for his match-winning contributions for T20 World Cup runner-ups Pakistan during the previous year, took 31 wickets in 2022 – most by any Pakistani bowler.

The right-arm pacer impressed everybody with his raw pace and often left batters clueless. In the absence of Shaheen Afridi during the latter half of the year, Pakistan relied heavily on Rauf to lead the bowling attack.

Fast-bowling, wrist-spin makes PSL an exciting cricketing environment: Andy Flower



Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: Former Zimbabwean Captain and Multan Sultans' head coach Andy Flower believes the fast bowling and wrist spin makes Pakistan Super League (PSL) an exciting cricketing environment.

"Each franchise tournament and the country has a different feel. That's one of the really nice things about coaching around the franchise world – you're experiencing different cultures, not only from a national perspective but also cricketing cultures. Pakistan cricket has its own thing, particularly around fast bowling and wristspin, which makes it a really exciting cricketing environment.

But also just being exposed to a lot of interesting cultures in the dressing room is quite interesting, in a wider perspective for me. The support for the PSL in Pakistan has been incredible. I love that sort of vibrant energy that you get from the crowds. We've been really lucky in Multan with our crowds. But I think the other teams will feel similar things, certainly here in Lahore, with Lahore having some of their first success last year and then also playing good cricket this year," ESPNcricinfo.com quoted him as saying.

Speaking about Mohammad Rizwan, he said his faith and humility keep him at a very solid foundation from which to work. "But from a sporting point of view, and particularly white-ball cricket, I think once you establish a successful batting formula in your head, you know the type of cricket you need to play to be successful.

"He's repeating a similar formula all the time and that gives him a real consistency about what he does. Which is good for him and for whatever team he plays for. I think he's put in a lot of thought, practice, trial and error. In his younger days, I saw him when he was playing for Pakistan A against England Lions. I think from paying attention to what he's done and from developing his game, he's worked out a formula that works really well in white-ball cricket," he said.

PSL 2023: Shan Masood ready to die for Babar Azam

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's top-order batter Shan Masood, who is currently representing Multan Sultans in the Pakistan Super League's (PSL) eighth edition, said that other players including him are ready to die for Babar Azam.

Speaking during an interview with a private TV channel, Shan said that all of the players are backing Babar.

PSL 2023: Shan Masood ready to die for Babar Azam

"We were ready to give our lives when Sarfaraz Ahmed was our captain and now we are ready to give our lives for Babar Azam," said the batter.

Talking about the criticism of the skipper and Pakistan team, Shan said that the leader comes first. "We watch a lot of news on criticism of the team but we don't get bothered by them as our mutual goal is Pakistan and to play for our country," he added.

Shan also named Shaheen Shah Afridi as his favourite bowler, saying that it is hard to save oneself from his bowling in the first over.

PSL Twenty20

RAWALPINDI: Islamabad United players celebrate after the Quetta Gladiator's skipper Sarfraz Ahmed catch out during the Pakistan Super League (PSL) Twenty20 cricket match between Islamabad United and Quetta Gladiator's at the Pindi Cricket Stadium, in the city.



Photo: Online

Liverpool rewrite record books in 7-0 thrashing of Man Utd

LIVERPOOL: Cody Gakpo, Darwin Nunez and Mohamed Salah all scored twice as Liverpool shrugged off a season of frustration to thrash Manchester United 7-0 at Anfield on Sunday.

Jurgen Klopp's men set a new record margin of victory in the clash between English football's two most successful clubs.

"It was one of the best performances for a long, long time. Everybody saw what the boys can be," said Klopp.

"The second half couldn't start better. From that moment on we were flying and it was really difficult to play against us."

Just a second defeat in 23 games in all competitions realistically ends United's hopes of a first league title in a decade as they remain 14 points adrift of leaders Arsenal in third.

But there could be even more lasting damage from a record-equalling defeat for the club in a competitive game and the heaviest since 1931.

Marina, Sana, Urooj excited for Women's League exhibition matches

Sports Desk

RAWALPINDI: The three Women's League exhibition matches are all set to take place at the Pindi Cricket Stadium on 8, 10 and 11 March with 10 foreign players from seven countries to feature in the T20 matches. Women's matches will start at 2pm and will be followed by the men's matches at 7pm.

Bismah Maroof will captain Amazons, which include Ireland's Laura Delany, England's trio of Lauren Winfield-Hill, Maia Bouchier and Tammy Beaumont, and Australia's Tess Flintoff. Nida Dar will lead Super Women, which will comprise Sri Lanka's Chamari Athapaththu, Danni Wyatt of England, Jahanara Alam of Bangladesh, South Africa's Laura Wolvaardt and Lea Tahuhu of New Zealand.

Former Pakistan captains Sana Mir and Urooj Mumtaz and former international player Marina Iqbal, who are all part of the commentary panel for the HBL PSL 8, expressed their delight on the hosting of the women's exhibition matches next week in Rawalpindi.

Marina Iqbal, who represented Pakistan in 78 matches in a statement said: "The hosting of exhibition matches is a step forward in the growth of women's cricket. The matches provide a huge opportunity to the emerging players to share the dressing room with international stars. When we used to play, we always looked forward to such opportunities, meeting with the stars, interacting with them and asking them about their skills and fitness.

"It is an opportunity for budding cricketers to play

alongside top cricketers, learn from them, compete with them and also see where they stand in the game."

Sana Mir, who represented Pakistan in 226 international matches, said: "I am really excited as this is the first time exhibition matches are taking place for the women's league. This will provide an opportunity to the women cricketers to come forward and showcase their skills.

"These exhibition matches are very important for the local players to know and understand the requirements of the modern day cricket, what international players are doing, how they can improve their skill-set and how they can perform in the pressure situations.

"The league at home will not only help players to improve their game, but it also gives

them a chance to get selected in foreign leagues."

Urooj Mumtaz, who played for Pakistan in 48 international matches from 2004 to 2010, said: "These exhibition matches taking place alongside HBL PSL 8 is a huge thing, it will increase the viewership and attracts the younger audience to come forward and adopt this game, boosting women's cricket.

"The cricketers playing in the league have a great opportunity to inspire young women not just pick this game but pick up any other sport because cricket is playing a huge role for other sports in Pakistan.

"I will urge the people in Pindi to come and support women's cricket and enjoy the level of women's cricket which has gone up in this country after a time."

Squads: Amazons – Bismah Maroof



(captain), Aliya Riaz, Anam Amin, Areesha Noor, Eymen Fatima, Fatima Khan, Fatima Sana, Ghulam Fatima, Gull Feroza, Kainat Imtiaz, Laura Delany (Ireland), Lauren Winfield-Hill (England), Maia Bouchier (England), Nashra Sundhu, Sadaf Shamas, Tammy Beaumont (England), Tess Flintoff (Australia) and Umm-e-

Hani Super Women – Nida Dar (captain) Aimen Anwar, Chamari Athapaththu (Sri Lanka), Danni Wyatt (England), Iram Javed, Jahanara Alam (Bangladesh), Laura Wolvaardt (South Africa), Lea Tahuhu (New Zealand), Muneeba Ali, Natalia Parvaiz, Omaira Sohail, Sadia Iqbal, Shawaal Zulfiqar,

Sidra Amin, Sidra Nawaz, Syeda Aroob Shah, Syeda Masooma Zahra and Tubha Hassan

Schedule:

8 Mar – 1st match, 2pm, Pindi Cricket Stadium. Shozab Raza and Saleema Imtiaz (on-field umpires), Tariq Rasheed (third umpire) and Humaira Farah fourth umpire. Mohammad Anees (match referee)

10 Mar – 2nd match, 2pm, Pindi Cricket Stadium. Shozab Raza and Humaira Farah (on-field umpires), Tariq Rasheed (third umpire) and Saleema Imtiaz (fourth umpire). Mohammad Anees (match referee)

11 Mar – 3rd match, 2pm, Tariq Rasheed and Saleema Imtiaz (on-field umpires), Shozab Raza (third umpire) and Humaira Farah (fourth umpire). Mohammad Anees (match referee).