



Daily The Spokesman

A Leading National Daily



فرمان رسول ﷺ
ان رس اللہ صلی اللہ علیہ وسلم نے بیان کیا کہ نبی کریم صلی اللہ علیہ وسلم نے فرمایا: اے نبی تمہارا سینہ بائیں جانب تھرتھرتا رہے گا۔ (آپ صلی اللہ علیہ وسلم نے اس جگہ کو مسجور کے لیے خریدنا چاہتے تھے) اس میں میں نے کچھ حصہ توڑا اور کچھ حصے میں کھجور کے درخت تھے۔
(بخاری، حدیث نمبر 2106)
Barkat Rice Mills (Pvt) Limited

Empowering women is our top priority

The First Lady, Begum Samina Alvi, emphasized the need for unity and individual contributions towards a brighter future for Pakistan. She highlighted the importance of women's empowerment, which remains a top priority. Begum Alvi recognized the potential and determination of the youth but stressed the need for appropriate platforms to facilitate their growth. (Report on Page 3)



German Minister calls on Syed Naveed Qamar

German Minister of State at Federal Foreign Office Dr. Tobias Linder called on Federal Minister for Commerce and Investments Syed Naveed Qamar to discuss matter of mutual interests. German Ambassador to Pakistan Alfred Gramas, and Federal Secretary Muhammad Saleh Ahmed Faruqi were also present in the meeting held here in the Minister Office on Monday. (Report on Page 5)

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Commitment to plan

Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif addressing UN Least Developed Countries Conference held in Doha, Qatar on 6th March, 2023.



Photo: PID

Pakistan committed to Doha Plan of Action: PM

Spokesman Report

DOHA: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Monday said Pakistan was committed to implementing Doha Programme of Action considering it as an opportunity to accelerate sustainable prosperity in the least developed countries.

Addressing the fifth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries (LDC5) in Qatar's capital Doha, the prime

minister said partnerships of LDCs with developed nations as well as private sector and civil society was significant for global prosperity.

PM Sharif emphasized exploring the opportunity to ensure sustainable development in the places where international assistance was needed the most.

He called upon the international community to join hands in tapping the full potential of

the LDCs helping them make progress on the road to prosperity.

He said the LDCs needed major investments in health, education and social protection systems, adding that vast resources were required to fully implement Agenda 2030 and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The prime minister highlighted that many of the LDCs were already in or at risk of debt

distress.

Left unchecked, he said, economic distress and vaccine inequity would make recoveries longer and more painful than necessary.

He said Pakistan was committed to safe and effective vaccines and allocation of resources for LDCs.

He pointed out that it was a matter of great concern that six LDCs had been classified as under extreme burden and

added that the needy nations required a system of social protection.

Sharif called the need for reforming unequal financial architecture to address the special needs of LDCs.

He proposed a system of international technology combined with SDGs to provide an easy access to LDCs to develop and bridge their digital divide in order to help them contribute to knowledge-based economy.

Nine martyred, 11 injured in suicide attack on police vehicle in Sibbi

News Desk

SIBBI: Nine martyred, while 11 others injured in a suicide attack on a police vehicle on Quetta-Sibbi highway.

According to SSO Kachi, the suicide attacker who was riding a bike blew himself up near the police vehicle which resulted in the death of nine police personnel. The injured police personnel were shifted to the civil hospital Sibbi, SSP Kachi said.

Earlier, the female 'suicide bomber' arrested by Counter-Terrorism Department (CTD) in Quetta was portrayed as a missing person by the Baloch Liberation Front (BLF).

Mahal Baloch was used by and forced to support BLF's militant wing, Tweets shared by The Balochistan Post were used to create a false narrative against Pakistan security forces.

The female suicide bomber arrested in Quetta was forced to support the Balochistan Liberation Front (BLF). She was separated from her children and turned into a suicide bomber.

More than 850,000 Syrian, Turkish children displaced by deadly quakes

Spokesman Report

UNITED NATIONS: A month after the two catastrophic earthquakes that struck Türkiye and Syria, more than 850,000 children remained displaced after being forced from their damaged or destroyed homes amid millions in dire need of aid, UN agencies said.

"Families forced from their homes by the earthquakes have spent the past four weeks focused on survival, their lives on hold while aftershocks continue to rumble," UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) Regional Director for Europe and Central Asia, Afshan Khan, said in a statement.

She said it was now critical "to do all we can to help families begin to rebuild their lives, providing children with psychosocial support, getting them back into learning as soon as possible, and providing some stability amid the chaos."

At the same time, the UN Population Fund (UNFPA) reported on Monday that the situation for the 356,000 pregnant women in earthquake-affected areas remained critical, especially the estimated 38,800 who were expected to deliver in the coming weeks.

Hundreds of hospitals and clinics were either damaged or destroyed,



and thousands of women and girls were living in over-crowded, makeshift camps exposed to freezing temperatures, UNFPA said, adding that urgent funding was key to keeping thousands healthy during their pregnancy.

The impact of the earthquakes on the region's children and families, it added, had been catastrophic, leaving hundreds of thousands living in desperate conditions.

The combined death toll from the earthquakes and aftershocks had reached more than 50,000 people in both countries, with thousands of others injured and massive destruction to buildings and other essential infrastructure.

The number of children killed and injured during the quakes and their aftermath had not yet been confirmed, but was likely to be in the many thousands, UNICEF said. Across Syria, more than 3.7 million

children had been affected by the quakes.

"Even before these catastrophic earthquakes, humanitarian needs among children of Syria were higher than they have ever been," UNICEF Regional Director for the Middle East and North Africa, Adele Khodr, said. "As we approach 12 long years of conflict, millions of families are living on the brink of disaster, feeling as if the world had forgotten them. We must support these families for the long term, helping them pick up the pieces of their lives."

"In Syria, more than 500,000 people are believed to have been forced from their homes by the earthquakes. Many families' homes have been destroyed and many children are afraid to return to damaged homes as aftershocks continue."

"Even before the earthquakes, Syria had the largest number of internally displaced people in the world, with 6.8 million people displaced, including nearly three million children."

"In Türkiye, over 1.9 million people are staying in temporary accommodation shelters, and 2.5 million children in the country require urgent humanitarian assistance."

Sherry demands courts to take notice of Imran Khan's lies

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Climate Change, Senator, Sherry Rehman on Monday demanded that the Court should take strict notice against Imran Khan for obstructing judicial and police proceedings and telling lies.

In a series of tweets, the federal minister said PTI Chairman Imran Khan, who spoke about the rule of law, lied to avoid arrest.

Senator Rehman said, "This is the same person who sent all political opponents to jail for revenge in the past. Asif Ali Zardari and all other politicians rendered their arrest in fabricated cases with courage."

She added that Imran Khan hid behind his party workers every time to stop legal and judicial proceedings. Imran Khan was so afraid of arrest that he did not personally receive court notices from the police, she said.

Imran Khan decides not to appear before Court in Toshakhana case

Bureau Report

LAHORE: Former prime minister and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan has decided not to appear before Islamabad sessions court tomorrow (Tuesday) in Toshakhana case.

According to details, the former premier has decided not to appear before Islamabad sessions court owing to 'security threats'. Imran Khan took the decision after consulting the legal team.

Meanwhile, the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) also decided to challenge non-bailable arrest warrants for Imran Khan - issued last week in the Toshakhana case - in Islamabad High Court (IHC).

In a statement, the party's senior leadership claimed that there was still threat to former premier's life, complaining that the government was not providing adequate security.

Earlier in the day, a district and sessions court in Islamabad rejected Imran Khan's

plea seeking cancellation of the non-bailable arrest warrant issued in the Toshakhana case.

On February 28, Additional sessions judge Zafar Iqbal of an Islamabad court issued the former prime minister's non-bailable arrest warrant over his non-appearance.

Additional Session judge Zafar Iqbal announced the verdict he had reserved earlier in the day after a brief hearing of the arguments in the case.

A day earlier, the Islamabad police a day earlier 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.

Foreign-funded agent Imran Khan 'jackal' trying to evade arrest: Marriyum

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Information and Broadcasting Marriyum Aurangzeb said on Monday that 'a foreign-funded agent, a Toshakhana gifts thief' was acting like a jackal and hiding behind women and children to avoid arrest for his crimes.

Addressing the media persons here, she said when the police contingent left, the cowardly Imran Khan came out and started bragging and abusing the institutions.

Castigating, Imran Khan, she said this person had held the law and constitution of Pakistan as a hostage.

The minister observed that despite all his actions, he was being treated by the justice system leniently.

She said it was clear to everyone that the louder, he would scream, the sooner he would get relief.

Marriyum Aurangzeb said Imran was aware that if he



would attack, bully and threaten the Judiciary, he would get bail.

Criticizing Imran for his constant refusal to appear in courts, she said this person did not appear in courts because he knew that he was a foreign agent and involved in theft of the Toshakhana gifts.

She said that Imran Khan was responsible for the swindling of national exchequer and pushed the country towards inflation.

The minister said that Imran was fully aware that the day he would appear in court, he would be arrested as he had committed crimes.

Shab-e-Barat to be observed with traditional zeal today night

City Reporter

ISLAMABAD: The Shab-e-Barat, a night of forgiveness or day of atonement, would be observed with religious reverence across the country, including twin cities of Islamabad and Rawalpindi today night.

On this particular night, the majority of faithful would seek forgiveness from the Allah Almighty and the people whose rights were usurped consciously or unconsciously.

They prefer to keep fast on the very next day to express submission in the court of Allah Almighty and beg His countless blessings for both the worlds.

A large number of people hailing from all schools of thought would offer the Sunnah of the Holy Prophet Muhammad Peace Be Upon Him by paying homage at the graves of their loved ones on Shab-e-Barat.

Shedding light on the significance of this sacred night, Pakistan Ulema Council Chairman Hafiz Muhammad Tahir Mehmood Ashrafi urged the people not to block the roads adjacent to the graveyards due to wrong parking which causes nuisance to rest of the motorists.

Ashrafi who is also special representative to the prime minister on interfaith harmony and middle east urged the

Group Photo with President

LAHORE: Dr. Arif Alvi, President Islamic Republic of Pakistan in a group photo with the PhD scholars at Governor House on Monday.



Photo: PID

ECC approves Hajj Policy 2023 with foreign exchange cover of \$90 mln

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The Economic Coordination Committee (ECC) of the cabinet here on Monday approved Hajj Policy and agreed to provide foreign exchange cover of US\$90 million.

The summary to this effect was presented by Ministry of Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony before the cabinet committee, the meeting of which was chaired by Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Muhammad Ishaq Dar.

As per policy Hajj quota allocated to Pakistan for the year 2023 is 179,210, which would be distributed between the government and private hajj schemes at a ratio of 50:50, according to press statement issued by the finance ministry.

Out of the government and private hajj schemes, a quota of 50% each would be reserved for sponsorship



scheme, it said adding for the year 2023, tentative hajj package for Northern region is PKR 1,175,000/- and for the South Region is PKR 1,165,000/-.

The ECC also approved Technical Supplementa-

ry Grant (TSG) of RS. 12 billion in favour of Planning Commission for conduct of 7th Population & Housing Census and Rs. 3,244 million in favour of Poverty Alleviation & Social Safety for National Poverty Graduation

Programme (NPGP).

The ECC deferred a summary presented by Ministry of National Food Security & Research on Urea Fertilizer requirement for year 2023 with direction to incorporate the recommendations of

committee framed by ECC on gas distribution plan headed by Shahid Khaqan Abbasi.

The ECC also deferred another summary submitted by Ministry of Industries and Production on Solar Panel & Allied Equipment Manufacturing Policy-2023 with direction to review and revise the proposed policy considering inputs from all stakeholders.

Among others, the meeting was attended by Federal Minister for Power, Khuram Dastgir Khan; Federal Minister for Industries and Production, Syed Murtaza Mahmud; Federal Minister for Commerce, Syed Naveed Qamar; Federal Minister for Religious Affairs & Interfaith Harmony, Mufti Abdul Shakoor; Minister of State for Petroleum, Musadik Masood Malik, MNA/Ex-PM, Shahid Khaqan Abbasi; SAPM on Finance, Tariq Bajwa; SAPM on Revenue, Tariq Mehmood Pasha, federal secretaries and other senior officers.

Inflation is making lives very difficult for majority

Tariq Khattak

ISLAMABAD: Former Vice President of FPCCI Atif Ikram Sheikh on Monday said inflation is increasing continuously which has made the lives of the masses a living hell.

The prices of flour, ghee, sugar and other necessities have become beyond the reach of most of the people belonging to the lower income groups, he said.

International institutions have also warned against increasing social unrest therefore inflation should be tamed, he added.

Atif Ikram Sheikh who has also served as Chairman PVMA said in a statement that the devaluation of

the rupee to meet IMF loan conditions and hikes in energy prices and taxes have fuelled inflation.

He said that if the situation does not improve, there is a fear of social unrest which will have unforeseen consequences.

At this time, the purchasing power of the people has been exhausted and they are struggling to fill their stomachs while investing in health, education and other necessities has become impossible.

The expenses which were considered normal until now, now come under the category of luxuries. The majority of the people now have no margin and if their income is less, they have to starve.



At present, the price of a loaf of bread in Lahore is 15

rupees, while in Balochistan it costs 30 rupees. In Lahore, a 20 kg bag of flour costs around Rs 1,750, while in most parts of Balochistan it costs double which raises the question of administration.

Apart from the wrong policies, factors fuelling inflation related to IMF conditions include a 3.39 rupee per unit surcharge of electricity that is permanent and does not end 30 June 2023, increased gas rates, maximised petroleum levy, a mini-budget envisaging 170 billion rupees in additional taxes, a 20 percent discount rate and decontrolling the interbank rate.

The struggle of tens of millions of people has been reduced to two meals a day.

Economic situation worsening in IIOJK

News Desk

ISLAMABAD, MAR 6 (APP): On December 13 last year, India's Minister of State for Home Affairs Nityanand Rai presented investment data for the Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK).

The numbers spoke for themselves: investments have fallen by 55 percent over the past four years.

According to an article published on the Al-Jazeera website, the declining investments and violence contradict two central arguments that have been at the heart of the Indian government's rationale for the 2019 abrogation of the semi-autonomous status that the region previously enjoyed: that the move would help improve security and spur economic development.

In the past, federal governments in New Delhi have often blamed Jammu and Kashmir's woes on local governments in power in the region. That's no longer an excuse that works.

When the Hindu nationalist government of Prime Minister Narendra Modi eliminated Article 370 of the Indian Constitution — which gave Kashmir "special status" — it also carved out the territory of Ladakh from the region. Kashmir's statehood was withdrawn, and it was made a union territory, directly controlled by New Delhi.

Jammu and Kashmir does not even have the disempowered legislature that other union territories have — the region has not had elections in seven years. Yet it should now increasingly be clear, if it was not previously, that sidelining democratic processes and principles, and steamrolling constitutional provisions, are not working in improving the region's security or economic allure.

The abrogation of Article 370 allowed non-residents to buy and own land in Jammu and Kashmir for the first time. Critics of the region's previous special status frequently

cited restrictions on land ownership as a major reason why private sector industries were reluctant to set up businesses there.

However, data published by the Indian government's Ministry of Home Affairs — and made public by Rai — calls a bluff on those claims. Total investment in 2021-22 in Jammu and Kashmir stood at \$46m, down from \$50.5m the previous year, and dramatically less than the \$102.8m spent in 2017-18.

While the COVID-19 pandemic no doubt affected Kashmir's economy, the statistics suggest that was not the biggest factor in investments drying up. After all, the steepest fall in investments came the year that the Indian government ended Kashmir's semi-autonomous status, before the pandemic, halving from \$72.3m in 2018-19 to \$36.3m in 2019-20.

The Indian government had claimed that Article 370 restricted people's participation in the political process

and led to a few families dominating the politics of the region. However, since 2019, Modi's Bharatiya Janata Party has taken steps to further disempower local Kashmiris.

First, constituency boundaries for the region's legislature were redrawn in a way that gives Hindu-majority Jammu a greater say in elections than its Muslim population.

In effect, that strengthens the chances of the BJP coming to power in Jammu and Kashmir.

Then a revision of the voter list was carried out, giving voting rights to outsiders. Jammu and Kashmir is home to hundreds of thousands of migrant workers and army personnel — if allowed to vote, their electoral influence is going to be significant.

Some Kashmiri leaders have invoked the region's 1987 elections which were allegedly rigged and were considered a tipping point when the armed freedom movement in Kashmir took off.

Belarus embassy to hold 'Int'l trade & industry fair' on March 10

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: Belarus embassy will organize a three-day national exposition on the 'International trade & industry fair' which will be held in Expo Center Karachi from March 10 to 12.

The event is aimed to promote trade and economic cooperation between Pakistan and Belarus, according to a press release issued here on Monday.

A Belarus-Pakistani business forum will also be held on March 11 at Expo Center Karachi. This B2B event will provide an opportunity to conduct direct negotiations between businessmen from both countries.

For this matter, the Belarusian delegates are planning to meet potential Pakistani business partners from FPCCI and other regional chambers of commerce and industry, as well as representatives of the Pakistan Business Council, the Council on Scientific and Industrial Research, Sindh Engro Coal Mining Company, associations of chemicals and carpets manufacturers, iron & steel, yarn.

Belarusian delegation will include companies of steel & iron indus-

try-Byelorussian Steel Works' and 'Beltsvetmet'; heavy vehicles industry-BelAZ; chemical and petrochemical industries 'Polotsk-Steklovokno'; 'Belshina', 'Naftan', 'Mineral Wax Plant', 'Grodno Azot' and its Branch 'Plant Khimvolokno'; representatives of the National academy of sciences of Belarus and State committee on Science and Technology (Scientific-Practical Materials Research Center, Experimental Plant for Mechanization of Agriculture, Institute of Bioorganic Chemistry, Physical-Technical Institute, Institute for Meat and Dairy Industry, Belarusian Institute for System Analysis), as well as representative of universities (Belarusian State University, Belarusian National technical University, Belarusian State Technological University).

The aforementioned Belarusian companies are manufacturers of mining and dump trucks, experimental agricultural machinery, tinplate and steel billets, tires, glass fiber productions, lubricants and petrochemicals, fertilizers, yarn & cord fabrics, acrylic fiber, polyethylene products, as well as providers of scientific and technical services.

UN provided relief aid to 7 mln flood-hit people in Pakistan in past 6 months: Spokesman

News Desk

UNITED NATIONS: The United Nations humanitarian team had reached more than seven million flood-hit people in Pakistan with food and other essential services in the past six months, as part of the Government-led response to the devastating floods, a UN spokesman said Monday.

"We are also supporting authorities' efforts to help communities recover, restore their livelihoods, and prepare for the next monsoon season in a few months," UN Spokesman Stephane Dujarric told reporters at the regular noon briefing in New York.

However, he said, only 30 percent of this year's Floods Response Plan had been funded, and rates of child

malnutrition remained of particular concern.

The UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) and partners had reached more than one million children and close to 850,000 mothers with life-saving nutrition interventions that helped avert a significant number of deaths, the spokesman said. However, only one-third of the child nutrition response had been funded, leaving 12 million children suffering from stunting at risk.

For their part, the World Health Organization (WHO) has reached more than three million people with health services. And the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) has provided food security and agriculture assistance to seven million people, although four million people are still at risk.

Hijab made mandatory for female teachers, students in AJK

Abdul Majeed Tahir

KASHMIR: The education department of Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) has made hijab mandatory for female students and teachers in co-education institutions.

In the notification, the AJK education department said "it has been observed that the female students and teachers were not made to wear hijab

in institutions where co-education is practised.

The department directed the administration of all the schools and colleges to ensure the implementation of its orders regarding hijab in "letter and spirit". It warned that in case the instructions were violated, disciplinary proceedings shall be initiated "against the heads of the institutions concerned".

PFUJ condemns suspension of ARY News transmission

City Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Federal Union of Journalists (PFUJ) Monday has strongly condemned the suspension of ARY News transmission.

Reacting to the Pakistan Electronic Media Regulatory Authority's action of suspending ARY News's licence, PFUJ President Afzal Butt said the PEMRA is "violating" the laws. There is no such provision in the law to punish any channel without issuing notice, he added.

He warned PEMRA to correct its mistake or else the PFUJ will initiate a countrywide protest.

Unmute

On Sunday, 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.

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 delivered 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 Suspend broadcast satellite TV Channel license conferred to M/s ARY Communications Ltd. (ARY News) with immediate effect, till further orders."

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.

Private sector promoting the quality education: Ishtiaq Bokhari

Abdul Majeed Tahir

HAJIRA: The Central President of private Schools & Colleges Association AJK Syed Ishtiaq Hussain Bukhari has said that the children of our state are showing their talents in every field and our children are a beautiful symbol of their state in other countries of the world.

It will not be wrong if Hajira Tehsil is given the status of Education City. Private educational institutions are doing their best to make 6 lakh state students useful members of the society by providing excellent education.

The private education sector has reduced the burden of unemployment from the state by providing dignified employment to 50,000 highly educated men and women. Syed Ishtiaq Hussain Bukhari, Advocate, Central President, Azad Kashmir Private Schools and Colleges Association (APSCA).



Addressing function held at the organized by Muhammden College Hajira.

He said that in the meeting of Epsca with Mirpur Board, all the outstanding issues of the sector were discussed and Alhamdulillah a decision has been issued on 06 essential issues.

It is hoped that, God blessing, there will be a significant reduction in the problems of the private education sector.

Mirpur Board has assured about empowerment of regional offices and online rechecking of papers. Now the students of the concerned

institution will not be able to participate in any examination center.

This will further improve the transparency of the examination.

Addressing the ceremony, Managing Director Muhammden College, Mr. Sardar Tariq Mehmood, Mr. Tariq Minhas, President Epsca Tehsil Hajira Shahid Akhtar, General Secretary Mr. Sohail Akhtar, Managing Director Stars Academy Hajira Milaj Ashfaq, Malik Intro and others said that the year Due to the pending writ petitions and appeals in the courts for 06 to 07 months with reference to the first syllabus, the students suffered an irreparable loss.

Thanks to Allah, our students will be spared from further hardship with the excellent decision of the Supreme Court.

What could be a worse example of the decrepit state of our education system? That our curriculum is decided by booksellers and publishers.

NPO announces variety of programs to boost productivity of Pakistan's industry: spokesman

Mian Rashid Asghar

FAISALABAD: Pegged and low productivity is the major challenge faced by the Pakistani industry and NPO has launched different programs to spur productivity through innovative programmes, said Mr. Muhammad Alamgir Chaudhry, Chief Executive Officer National Productivity Organization. He visited Faisalabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (FCCI) along with his team and discussed productivity related issues with Dr. Khurram Tariq President FCCI. He said that the Asian Productivity organization was established in 1959 in Tokyo and Pakistan is its founding member, however, now its numbers have been increased to 21.

He said that it has introduced a number of practical programs to enhance the productivity and efficiency of the industrial sector. He said that host country Japan is bearing 55% of its expenditure while the remaining countries are paying their contribution according to their GDP growth. He said that Pakistan has paid a contribution of \$ 230,000 and hence we must avail this facility not only for our own benefit but also to enhance the overall national productivity which was facing challenges due to multiple domestic inefficiencies and international factors.

Regarding best practices, he said that the Pakistani units could also request for a study tour. He further said that some programs are totally free while others are partially funded. He quoted the World Bank report of 2020 and said that an energy audit of 360 units had revealed that they were wasting electricity to the tune of Rs. 7bn per annum. He said that the Punjab government has also undertaken two projects relating to energy audits. "Forty units belonging to four sectors were included in it", he said and added that a Japanese expert was also involved in this project which gave very encouraging results. He also explained other facilities offered by the NPO and said that his staff has been directed to remain in the field to extend best possible facilitation to the industrial units intending to improve their productivity and efficiency.

Dates to be sold at reasonable rates in Faisalabad: FCCI

Mian Rashid Asghar

FAISALABAD: On the demand of Faisalabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (FCCI), Government of Pakistan has withdrawn 74% Regulatory Duty (RD) on the import of Iranian dates. The Government had earlier included dates in luxury items and clamped 74% RD instead of only ten percent duty. Dr. Khurram Tariq President FCCI on the request of Karyana Association took up this issue with the Ministry of Commerce and wrote a letter underlining the importance of dates in our food particularly during the upcoming fasting month of Ramadan.

He further said that date is not a luxury item as it is a Sunnah of Prophet Muhammad Peace Be Upon Him to preferably Ifar with dates. The Ministry reviewed its decision and withdrew the additional RD and in this connection a letter has also been provided to the FCCI. Meanwhile Senior Vice President Dr. Sajjad Arshad and Vice President Haji Aslam Bhalli have thanked Dr. Khurram Tariq for taking this issue of public interest and resolving the same within the shortest possible time. They said that now dates would be available in the local market at a reasonable rate. On the other hand, the rates of dates have also been slashed down to Rs. 2,000 per 40kg while more decrease is also expected within the next few days.

MD&CEO FFC visited Goth Machhi & Mirpur Mathelo



Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Fauji Fertilizer Company (FFC) is always at the forefront to assist the community in humanitarian disaster, Corona outbreak and flood relief efforts. The Company has extensively provided succor to flood victims as part of its CSR program.

MD&CEO Fauji Fertilizer Company, Mr. Sarfraz Ahmed Rehman visited Mirpur Mathelo and Goth Machhi to hand over recently constructed houses to flood affectees as part of Flood Relief Rehabilitation drive. Affectees lauded the spellbinding contributions of FFC and appreciated their concerted efforts towards community uplift.

MD&CEO also inaugurated Girls Section of Sona Public School & College, Mirpur Mathelo, with a vision to provide better education facilities in the area. He also inaugurated a RO plant at a cost of Rs. 3.5 million for the underprivileged community at Basti Varand. He proudly shared that FFC has always preferred investing in the community and has therefore spent huge amounts to enhance health, education and sport facilities in the rural areas of Goth Machhi and Mirpur Mathelo.

Holi

KARACHI: People of Hindu community celebrate Holi, the festival of colors, at a temple on Monday.



Photo: Online

Trade Map to help entrepreneurs in exporting to foreign markets: Mashood Khan

Spokesman Report

KARACHI : Mehran Commercial Enterprises has always been in the forefront of building the capacity of different industries and serving the community with state-of-the-art practices and motivating entrepreneurs in entering into exports. Mashood Khan's school of thought is based around the fundamental fact of building the country's image in the foreign arena as a

competitive and creative destination. In this regard a one-day session has been arranged to be hosted by Mashood at Mehran Commercial Enterprises premises on "Trademap.org and HS Codes". This session will be delivered by Dr.AadilNakhodo who is an Assistant Professor at IBA ORIC and a specialist in research & economics. The course is designed to assist companies in identifying international markets around the world that sell

and buy their products. Trade Map is a platform that provides its users with indicators on export performance, international demand, alternative markets and competitive markets, as well as a directory of importing and exporting companies. The Trade Map covers 220 countries and territories and 5300 products of the Harmonized System. This is vital information that needs to be understood by the entrepreneur to

make decisions regarding his export strategy.

This is stage 1 for entering into exports for any company. The course will build a mindset and a sense of direction for an entrepreneur which is what we are trying to achieve, said . Mashood. He also personally thanked Nakhodo and the participants for taking out time to be part of a process that will jump start something positive.

TPL Insurance (WTO) and Takaful Bazaar Partner to Offer Shariah Compliant Services

ABC

ISLAMABAD: TPL Insurance Limited - Window Takaful Operations (WTO), one of the leading insurance providers in Pakistan, has partnered with Takaful Bazaar, an upcoming Takaful digital platform, to offer shariah-compliant services to customers. The partnership aims to promote and offer Shariah Compliant products and smooth the customer handling journey via technology enablement.

At an exclusive event held at Pearl Continental, Karachi, Takaful Bazaar announced their collaboration with the captain of the Pakistan cricket team, Babar Azam. The attendees enthusiastically received the announcement, including TPL Insurance and Takaful Bazaar representatives.

The partnership between TPL Insurance (WTO) and Takaful Bazaar represents



a significant milestone for the Takaful industry in Pakistan, as it provides customers access to a broader range of shariah-compliant products and services. This partnership is also a testament to both companies' innovative and

technology-driven approaches to increasing insurance penetration in Pakistan. On this partnership, Mr. Muhammad Aminuddin, CEO of TPL Insurance, said, "TPL Insurance has always been an innovator and tech-enabled

Muhammadi all the best in their endeavour to enhance financial inclusion and provide a safety net to the masses."

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

Takaful Bazaar aims to provide a one-stop solution for takaful and is committed to enhancing financial inclusion and providing a safety net to the masses in Pakistan. The platform offers a wide range of Shariah Compliant insurance products, including motor, travel, and health insurance.

Inflation is making lives very difficult for majority

Tariq Khattak

ISLAMABAD: Former Vice President of FPCCI Atif Ikram Sheikh on Monday said inflation is increasing continuously which has made the lives of the masses a living hell.

The prices of flour, ghee, sugar and other necessities have become beyond the reach of most of the people belonging to the lower income groups, he said.

International institutions have also warned against increasing social unrest therefore inflation should be tamed, he added.

Atif Ikram Sheikh who has also served as Chairman PVMA said in a statement that the devaluation of the rupee to meet IMF loan conditions and hikes in energy prices and taxes have fuelled inflation.

He said that if the situation does not improve, there is a fear of social unrest which will have unforeseen consequences.

At this time, the purchasing power of the people has been exhausted and they are struggling to fill their stom-

achs while investing in health, education and other necessities has become impossible.

The expenses which were considered normal until now, now come under the category of luxuries. The majority of the people now have no margin and if their income is less, they have to starve.

At present, the price of a loaf of bread in Lahore is 15 rupees, while in Balochistan it costs 30 rupees. In Lahore, a 20 kg bag of flour costs around Rs 1,750, while in most parts of Balochistan it costs double which raises the question of administration.

Apart from the wrong policies, factors fuelling inflation related to IMF conditions include a 3.39 rupee per unit surcharge of electricity that is permanent and does not end 30 June 2023, increased gas rates, maximised petroleum levy, a mini-budget envisaging 170 billion rupees in additional taxes, a 20 percent discount rate and decontrolling the interbank rate.

The struggle of tens of millions of people has been reduced to two meals a day.



Islamabad
15° - 23° Clear

SERVICES

Namaz Timings

Fajr 5:09:08 am
Zohr 12:19 pm
Asr 4:27 pm
Maghrib 6:08 pm
Isha 7:31 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
DHO 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
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

MoU signing ceremony held

Tahir Amin Malik

LAHORE : Al-Mustafa International University, Iran on behalf of the President of the University Hujjat ul Islam Dr. Ali Abbasi and University of Education on behalf of Prof. Dr. Talat Naseer Pasha (S. I.) Vice Chancellor of the has signed Intent of Cooperation. In order to develop the boundaries of wisdom and knowledge and promote the level of cooperation in the educational, cultural, research fields and the optimal use of existing facilities to achieve common goals, this Intent of Cooperation, hereinafter referred to as "al-Mustafa" and "Education University" based on the principle of mutual benefit and respect to the independence of the two parties.

The same has to be made beneficial in Education, Research, Cultural, Communication and International Affairs, Financial and General Laws, for the University of Education, Lahore through Director Student Counselling Centre Dr. Muhammad Anwer. Special efforts for this Intent of Cooperation have been made by Prof. Dr. Muhammad Shahbaz Manj, Chairman Department of Islamic Studies, University of Education, Lahore and Dr. Nadeem Abbas from Islamabad.

Empowering women is our top priority: Begum Samina Alvi

Bureau Report

LAHORE: The First Lady, Begum Samina Alvi, emphasized the need for unity and individual contributions towards a brighter future for Pakistan. She highlighted the importance of women's empowerment, which remains a top priority. Begum Alvi recognized the potential and determination of the youth but stressed the need for appropriate platforms to facilitate their growth. Known for their willingness to participate in welfare activities, she urged women to set aside political affiliations and work towards the betterment of the country. These statements were made during her address at the Soliton Welfare Foundation event.

Begum Sameena Alvi said that it is encouraging to see organizations like the Soliton Foundation and others actively engaging in the welfare activities in Pakistan. She noted that many people in the country are enthusiastic about participating in charity and volunteer work.

Begum Sameena also emphasized that if Pakistanis adopt the same mindset and behavior they exhibit outside the coun-



try while living in Pakistan, the country will progress twice as fast. She praised the fact that multiple organizations are actively participating in welfare projects, and she has worked with various institutions herself. She also raised awareness about the prevalence of breast cancer in Pakistan, which is claiming the lives of about 49% women. To address this issue, she collaborated with institutions such as Shaukat Khanum Hospital to launch a campaign to provide proper treatment for breast cancer in its early stages.

Dr. Mansoor, the Chairman of the Soliton Welfare Foundation, spoke about the foundation's various welfare projects, including schools, hospitals, orphanag-

es, and agricultural research centers in Nankana Sahib. He expressed his belief that every citizen should have the passion to give something back to Pakistan.

Dr. Fauzia Khan, CEO of the Soliton Welfare Foundation, highlighted the need to act on the directives of Quaid-e-Azam to make the country progress. She expressed gratitude to Begum Sameena Alvi for gracing the event with her presence. Distinguished physicians and researchers, as well as several professors actively engaged in AI research at LUMS, were in attendance at the event.

Approximately 200 members of the Soliton Group were also present at the event.

Gems, Jewellery show

ISLAMABAD: Girls are looking gems on a stall during the 24th Pakistan Gems, Jewellery and Mineral show 2023, at a local hotel in Federal Capital.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

BOI all set to introduce Asaan Karobaar Bill in Parliament

Commerce Reporter

ISLAMABAD, MARCH 6, 2023: Stakeholders during a consultative workshop on Monday agreed to initiate the legislative process to introduce the Asaan Karobaar Bill in the Parliament at the earliest.

This was decided during the Workshop on Asaan Karobaar Bill, which was attended by over 80 participants including representatives from public & private sector, all the provincial governments, AJK, G-B, Finance Division, Federal Board of Revenue (FBR), Securities & Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP), Pakistan Single Window (PSW), Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI), Paki-



stan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE), Pakistan Business Council (PBC), KP-BOI, AJK-BOI, academia etc.

Addressing the concluding session, Ms. Ambreen

of the problems faced by different investors in initiating their businesses and in this regard valuable input were given during the consultative workshop. She said that the Bill would ensure protection and promotion of small business owners to run their businesses with ease and comfort. She also stressed upon the effective implementation of the Bill, once it would be passed from the parliament.

Addressing the workshop, Mr. Khashi-ur-Rehman, Additional Secretary, BOI said the workshop provided a platform to discuss the key provisions of the Asaan Karobaar Legislation, its benefits and challenges and for this purpose experts from different fields had been

Former President Zardari says U-turn is in the nature of Imran Khan

Kiran Asim

MULTAN : Former President Asif Ali Zardari responding to the questions by the media in Vehari on Monday evening said that taking U-turn is in the nature of Imran Khan. Imran Khan wanted to sell all the institutions of the country but we saved the country by ousting him from power. It is the power and authority of the interior minister to arrest Imran Khan in any case. He said that it is his first visit to Vehari but he has personal contacts with the people of the area. He said that politics is the art of possibilities.

Responding to the questions by the journalists he said that the PPP is not in the PDM but is a part of the government. The PPP and the PDM have their own views on different issues. President Zardari said that there could be negotiations with politicians and political parties but Imran Khan is not a politician. Imran Khan did not win the by-election in Rajanpur on the basis of popularity but due to price-hike and the women voted for his party because they run the kitchen for the family.

Regarding the digital census, President Zardari said that Sindh has reservations on the census. Regarding alliance with other political parties in the next elections he said that we will see when the elections are held. He said that people struggle in politics and do hard work like Syed Yousuf Raza Gillani who was imprisoned for six years and that is why I chose him as the prime minister of the PPP government. Imran Khan fears facing courts but a politician does not fear the courts or the prisons.

On a question about contesting election on a National Assembly seat from Vehari he, in a lighter mood, said that if you people are inviting me to contest then he does not have any objection. Responding to a question about the judiciary, he said that the way we have to put the economy and other things on the right track and also deal with the military mindset we have to also deal with the judiciary.

NCSW, UN Women handover draft Code of Ethics to PML-N

News Desk

ISLAMABAD : The National Commission on the Status of Women (NCSW), in collaboration with UNDP& UN Women, held a national conference and a ceremonial handover to the Election Commission of Pakistan, of the proposed Code of Ethics to prohibit hate speech against women in politics in Islamabad on March 6th 2023. This national event was held after consultations for the Code of Ethics in each province in the previous weeks.

The consultation was attended by multi-party parliamentarians, representatives from the election commission, security agencies, civil society and media.

Chairperson NCSW Nilofar Bakhtiar in her opening remarks thanked all the participants for coming to this very pertinent event. "Women of Pakistan have worked very hard to get to the position where they are today, we have and we will continue to make the country a safer place for women."

Senator Fauzia Arshad and Senator Seemi Ezdi, while addressing the guests, discussed the unkind remarks towards women within the political sphere that must be curtailed. They both highlighted how it was essential to work together towards curtailing such comments.

Ms. Nabila Malick, member UN Women, gave a thorough presentation on the introduction and the initiative of the Code of Ethics. The recommendations from all the provinces were presented, voted upon and/or edited by the participants of the event.

Ms. Mehnaz Aziz, Parliamentary Secretary Ministry of Law & Justice, shed light upon the need to set a path apart from the misogynistic systemic way of life. "We shall create this Code of Ethics into a law," she said. Ms. Syeda Maimoona Zaib, UNDP Gender Specialist commented on the importance of this initiative by NCSW, UNDP & UN Women.

Pakistan real estate sector can help in recovery of economy: RECA chief



City Reporter

RAWALPINDI : Real estate sector can revolutionize the economy of Pakistan. This sector needs the attention of government circles and government agencies. This sector needs to be trusted. The real estate sector can generate billions of dollars in direct investment. These views were expressed by Adil Nawaz Bhatti, General Secretary of Real Estate Consultants Association (RECA) while addressing the meeting. Adil Nawaz Bhatti said that the heavy burden on Pakistan's economy can come down in a few months. There is a shortage of 5 million houses in Pakistan. A government-private partnership can revolutionize this sector. Overseas Pakistanis have immense confidence in this sector. He said that there is a need to regulate this sector and give it the status of a regular industry. The Real Estate Regulatory Authority Act should be implemented immediately to give this industry an opportunity to play its role in the development of the country. The real estate sector is the path to recovery of the country's economy and the way out of the current situation

Engro hosts the 2nd edition of talks@engro on IWD focusing on 'Embracing Equity'

Bureau Report

LAHORE: As a homegrown Company with a legacy of nearly six decades, Engro is committed to fulfilling its undeniable responsibility to help unleash Pakistan's potential. The second talks@engro event was held to mark the International Women's Day (IWD) and inspire positive action towards a more equitable future. The event featured thought leaders, change makers and futurists, who shared ideas and personal stories on this year's IWD theme "Embrace Equity".

Rabia Aziz, wellness speaker, life coach & therapist, talked about a cause which was of core value to her. Speaking at the event, she said, "When I was asked to speak here today on embracing equity, the one word that went

through my head again and again was grit and how under-rated this word is for women. From being stuck in a bubble created around them and in a continuous rat race, trying to make up for something, which is not even their fault."

Masarrat Misbah, Entrepreneur & Philanthropist, focused more on inclusivity for the women who have been deeply affected by injustice and domestic violence. "We are so blessed and have seen better things in life. Its moments like these when I realize how privileged are we, and it is our job to help these women rise up, and to empower them with some skills so they become self-sustainable and confident."

M. Jibran Nasir, Lawyer & Activist, talked about Rights of a Girl Child,

focusing on some of the cases he has personally been involved with. While pointing out flaws in the system he said, "If we have more women investigation officers, the reaction in cases relating to girls child might be different and there would have been more empathy towards victims and their families."

Nazish Chagla, Functional Nutritionist, took the stage to speak on Why Women Fare Badly on Nutritional Health Indicators and highlighted why the health results are so biased. While pointing out how women need to essentially take care of themselves, she said that, "Women, you need educate yourself, advocate for yourself and love yourself"

Nadeem Baig, the ace filmmaker, producer, & director, talked about the responsibility of a filmmaker to impart



lessons on equity through storytelling. While having worked on multiple

projects, "I wonder why only stories of fear are more popular among women. I feel that this fear this needs to be addressed at an individual level."

Mariam Riaz Paracha, Co-Founder Spoken Stage closed the session with the recitation of one of her pieces "Fly High."

Speaking at the event, Umber T Ansari, Head of Marketing, Communications & PR for Engro said, "In celebration of International Women's Day and our commitment to advancing the status of women and girls in society, working towards promoting inclusivity has been a project very close to my heart. I am proud to be a part of the talks@engro platform, which is setting the stage for thought leaders to share solutions to propel Pakistan into a new tomorrow to enable growth for all."

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Imran Khan, Pak Army and Indian Media

Pak Army is world's seventh largest Army and have been doing extraordinary for the country since its inception. Pa Army is a real strength for Pakistan and is an eyesore for the enemies of the country. So whenever someone talks against Pak Army he instantaneously gets popularity and appreciation from Indian Media which is continuously busy in propagating false and baseless propaganda against Pakistan and Pak Army. It makes our enemies very happy when someone speaks against Pakistan and Pak Army. Especially it gives them immense pleasure when someone from within Pakistan comments against the country and armed forces.

Imran Khan Have been continuously putting allegations against Pakistan army and have been blaming that US and Pak Army were behind his removal from the corridors of power. His baseless allegations against Pak Army have been getting much appreciation and popularity in Indian Media.

On 8 March 2022, opposition parties submitted a motion of no confidence against Imran Khan to the National Assembly's secretariat. On 1 April 2022, Prime Minister of that time Imran Khan announced that in context of the no-confidence motion against him in the National Assembly, the three options were discussed with "establishment" to choose from viz: "resignation, vote of no-confidence or elections". These options were never confirmed by independent sources and thus indicate the political stunt from his side. On 3 April 2022, President Arif Alvi dissolved the National Assembly of Pakistan on Imran Khan's advice, after the Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly rejected and set-aside the motion of no confidence; this move would have required elections to the National Assembly to be held within 90 days. On 10 April, after a Supreme Court ruling that the no-confidence motion was illegally rejected, a no-confidence vote was conducted and he was ousted from office,

becoming the first prime minister in Pakistan to be removed from office by a vote of no confidence. All of these proceedings took place through a pure and genuine political process while Imran Khan adapted non-political and no-ethical stance and claimed the US was behind his removal because he conducted an independent foreign policy and had friendly relations with China and Russia. He also accused Pak Army for his removal and have been continuously taking the names of senior Army officials in public.

According to Imran Khan, Qamar Javed Bajwa, former head of the army, was among "some army generals" who played an "active part" from behind the scenes to remove his government in April last year.

Alongwith Imran Khan the senior leadership of PTI have also been talking against Pak Army publically and their statements are on record.

Fawad Chaudhry, senior vice president of the opposition party, told host Stephen Sackur of HARDtalk during an interview for BBC that the vote that ousted him in April was part of a US-backed plot supported by the military, despite the General Headquarters' (GHQ) repeated denial of the claim.

"In that conspiracy against Khan, some army generals were involved, there is no doubt about that and the establishment actually played a very active role in the ouster of Imran Khan," Chaudhry said. "In fact, the last army chief was actively involved in sending our government home."

The military was also influencing the political parties allied with the PTI — Muttahida Qaumi Movement-Pakistan (MQM-P) and Balochistan Awami Party (BAP) — during its years in government, he said.

Sackur also asked the former minister about the unprecedented October press

conference of intelligence chief, Lt. Gen. Nadeem Anjum, in which he and then-chief spokesperson of the army, Lt. Gen. Babar Iftikhar, accused Imran Khan of asking the military for "illegal and unconstitutional" support for his government. Khan's criticism "is because the military and its chief refused to do illegal or unconstitutional things," Gen. Anjum said, adding the military had made a policy decision to stay out of politics, and hence turned down his persistent requests.

Chaudhry responded by saying "the current army leadership has just assumed the office and we are hoping there will be a change in the policy, but the last chief was not talking the truth when he said we asked for their help. We only asked for their neutrality in political affairs". After accusing Army he changed the tone and dismissed the impression the PTI was against the institution of the military, insisting the party was "not against anyone".

"In Pakistan, unelected institutions such as the judiciary and the military exercised their powers beyond the provision of Constitution in the past, which is known to everyone," he said. Khan's popularity has often surged because of his anti-Washington rhetoric. But Chaudhry said no party in Pakistan wanted a confrontation with Washington nor has PTI ever conveyed such an intent. He also recalled that Pakistan's ambassador to the United States, Asad Majeed Khan, dispatched a cipher following a meeting with a junior State Department official and Khan presented the same to the entire nation. He said the American diplomat had conveyed to Islamabad that the future of Pakistan-US relations was dependent on the fate of a yet-to-be-tabled no-confidence motion against the prime minister.

Imran Khan and top leadership PTI have been misleading the people by blaming Pak Army and have been publi-

cally insisting that US and Pak Army played a vital role in his removal. Indian Media never leaves any chance to open fire against Pakistan and Pak Army. The statements from Imran Khan and senior leadership of his party have been taken very warmly in Indian Media.

In a talk show on an Indian Channel which was hosted by Tahir Aslam Gora, the guest speaker Major(Retd) Gaurav Arya said that If Pak Army will be strong then Pakistan will at least have one institution which will be stable. He said that Pak Army is not just a force, it's actually a bond and a glue which has stitched Pakistan together and if you consider that that there is no Pak Army then what Pakistan have in reality. Apart of the army there is nothing. He said that there is only one credible institution inside Pakistan which is Pakistan Army. He said that it's not just an army it's a glue which has stitched Pakistani people together. He said that Pak Army is a ray of the hope for the people of Pakistan which always heard bad news. He said that if a person from Inside Pakistan is giving such a damage to you without our interference than what else we need. He said that Imran Khan is a man of EGO and always thinks for himself and for him only he is everything. He appreciated that such a leader from Pakistan is actively working against Pakistan and we don't have to spend a single penny for doing this.

Readers, Pakistan Army is a real strength of Pakistan and due to their sacrifices we are living in free, independent and safe environment. Current and ex Army Chiefs have been continuously saying that they decided to remain neutral and have nothing to do with the politics. Its irony from the side of a political party that they insist Army to support them and leave their firm decision of remaining neutral and impartial. This behavior and attitude is not in favor of Pakistan. Entire nation is closely monitoring these bad intentions of defaming and politicizing the institution and firmly stands on back of Pak Army. *Writer is Senior analyst and researcher*

China advances modernization drive with confidence

With a spring in his step after an uptick in tourists to his region, Wu Guoping, a deputy to the 14th National People's Congress (NPC) from Jiangsu Province, attended the opening meeting of the annual session of China's top legislature in Beijing.

According to Wu, the number of visitors at Wuxi City's Nianhua Bay in Jiangsu exceeded 210,000 in the first two months of this year, the highest for the same period since 2019, according to the CGTN.

Similar rebounds are happening everywhere in China as the country begins the first year of its march toward modernization, echoing Xi Jinping's remarks that "the start is crucial to the overall situation and decisive to the future."

Xi attended the opening meeting of the first session of the 14th NPC on Sunday morning in Beijing. A government work report submitted to the session for deliberation reviewed the country's progress in 2022 and revealed China's main targets for development in 2023.

The work report noted that the people have expressed views and suggestions which deserve full attention and urged efforts to live up to the people's trust.

In the past decade, Xi has participated in deliberation with lawmakers or political advisors 53 times at the annual Two Sessions, having listened to opinions and suggestions of over 400 NPC deputies and CPPCC members.

The government work report stressed that "the past five years for China have been truly momentous and remarkable," saying the country has met numerous tests, including accelerated changes on the international landscape, the COVID-19 pandemic and a domestic economic slowdown, and made major achievements in economic and social development, including winning the critical battle against poverty and finishing building a moderately prosperous society in all respects.

Calling for the stage to be set for building a modern socialist country in all respects, the report listed the main targets for development in 2023, including a GDP growth of around five percent, an increase of the consumer price index of around three percent and a deficit-to-GDP ratio of three percent.

The Two Sessions forges a synergy among the Chinese people and firms up their confidence in overcoming difficulties in achieving development goals in 2023 and advancing Chinese modernization, according to experts. "China is striving to secure stable economic growth this year, so the Two Sessions are of special significance in boosting confidence and gathering strength," said Yang Hui, a national political advisor.

As the Chinese modernization blueprint is fleshed out with specific targets to strive for at this year's Two Sessions, how China will create new opportunities for the world through its own development has captured global attention.

The government work report told the world that "China's economy is staging a steady recovery and demonstrating vast potential and momentum for further growth," as the country's consumer demand, market distribution, industrial production, and business expectations have all markedly improved.

It announced that China will intensify efforts to attract and utilize foreign investment. "With a vast and open market, China is sure to provide even greater business opportunities for foreign companies in China."



Nursing Profession: The backbone of healthcare system

Sohail Taj

The nursing profession is considered as the backbone of the healthcare system due to its essential role in the functioning of hospitals and provision of patient care.

However, despite the important role of nurses, many people still view them as assistants to doctors, and their job descriptions are often overlooked or misunderstood.

In developing countries like ours, nursing faces a unique set of challenges that make it more difficult to provide quality care and attract people to the profession. One of the biggest challenges the profession faces is the shortage of trained professionals in the field as according to the World Health Organization (WHO), low, and middle-income countries will face a global shortage of 10 million health workers, including nurses, midwives, and doctors by 2030.

In Pakistan, the shortage of nurses is particularly acute, with a ratio of 1.5 nurses per 1,000 population, which is lower than the WHO's minimum recommendation of 2.5 nurses per 1,000 population. Moreover, in many health-care settings nurses often find themselves taking on additional responsibilities to ensure that patients receive the care they need.

This shortage has a significant impact on the quality of healthcare thus making the nurses to overwork and compromise on patient care. "We have a lot of patients to take care of, and not enough staff to handle them all. It's a challenge to provide quality care when we're stretched so thin," said Ujala Javed, a registered nurse Pakistan Nursing Council.

The nurses are also often asked to perform tasks that are outside of their scope of practice, such as performing procedures that require a

physician's expertise or making decisions that are typically reserved for doctors. These situations can arise due to a lack of resources or staffing, and they can put both the patient's safety and the nurse's license at risk.

According to Ministry of National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination there were 127,050 registered nursing professionals which include 88,055 nurses, 16,449 lady health visitors, 16,057 midwives, 5,791 community midwives and 698 certified nursing assistants till 2022.

But efforts are being made to address the challenges being faced by the profession in the country. In this regard, Pakistan Nursing Council (PNC) in collaboration with the Higher Education Commission of Pakistan (HEC) is making all possible efforts to improve the quality of nursing education in the country besides promoting it as a viable career option.

The PNC is also involved in providing various diploma and degree programs for aspiring nurses, midwives, and nursing auxiliaries which includes a Diploma Program, Midwifery Diploma, Community Midwife (CMW) Four-Year Degree Program and Post RN Program to address the shortage of health care staff in the country.

The efforts of PNC also include increasing the number of nursing schools and colleges, providing scholarships and financial assistance to nursing students, as well as raising awareness about the importance and value of the nursing profession in the healthcare sector.

Ujala Javed, a nurse registered with Pakistan Nursing Council, said "Nurses are often perceived as the assistants of doctors, which is a misleading portrayal of their profession."

Nurses are highly educated professionals who complete rigorous training and licensing requirements to be able to practice and they had the required experience and knowl-

edge that is essential to patient care, and their contributions should be acknowledged and respected, she said.

The healthcare industry is facing a severe shortage of nurses, and as a result, many hospitals are resorting to hiring untrained nurses to fill the gap.

Untrained nurses lack the necessary knowledge and expertise to provide quality patient care, and they may not even be aware of their limitations, said Ujala adding that they may be asked to perform tasks that are outside of their scope of practice, which can put both the patient's safety at risk.

She said that untrained professionals may lack the necessary communication and interpersonal skills to effectively interact with patients and their families. "Patient care requires not only technical knowledge but also empathy and compassion, which untrained nurses may not possess," she maintained.

Khadija Muzaffar said that the shortage of nurses in Pakistan is not a new issue, and it has been exacerbated by a lack of funding and resources for nursing education programs. She said that the situation is further complicated by the low salaries and poor working conditions that deter qualified nurses from entering or remaining in the profession.

In order to address the challenges being faced by the nursing profession in the country is to promote positive portrayals of nurses in media. "The media has a significant influence on public perception, and negative portrayals of nursing can contribute to gender bias and perpetuate stereotypes" she added.

The nurses note that hospitals must prioritize patient safety by ensuring that only qualified and trained nurses are hired to provide patient care. This could be achieved by implementing strict hiring criteria and training for nurses to maintain and improve their skills.

Journey to death is acceptable, stay in Pakistan is not

Kiran Asim

We are living in a country where cricket matches are going on all the time and where people are losing their lives while migrating. Married to Shahida Raza, who belonged to the Hazara community of Quetta, she was probably the only female football and hockey player to represent Pakistan in two sports simultaneously.

She had a disabled son, she wanted him to be treated so that he could stand on his feet like other children, whatever salary she got, she used to spend on her three-year-old disabled child, but last year when her job ended. She was completely overwhelmed and decided to leave the country for the treatment of the child.

First she reached Turkey and then tried to reach Italy by boat, till the fourth day of this journey she was in contact with her family and she was happy that this painful journey was coming to an end but what did she know that The journey of their life will end. The boat overturned in the sea and Shahida Raza drowned along with her medals and identification. In the picture published in the newspapers, she is wearing a Pakistani green blazer with many medals, each medal of the state of Pakistan. There is a slap on the face.

Azan Afridi, aged fourteen years, resident of Peshawar. Azan had a brother in Sweden and his uncle in Italy, he first wanted to go to his uncle so that he could reach his brother in Sweden from there, but instead of reaching Sweden, this child also drowned on the way while crossing the sea, that journey. He was in constant contact with his mother, but when his contact was lost, the mother became depressed, she was told falsely that he had reached Italy.

Asad Naeem, handsome and smart, resident of Gujjar Khan, owner of his own business. He used to say that no matter how hard you work in

Pakistan, nothing will happen, if you work hard in Europe, you can earn good money. He paid Rs 2.3 lakh to an agent who promised to legally fly him to Europe. Asad Naeem was then in Tajikistan, from where he reached Libya, where, according to the agent, the journey was to begin.

There are thousands and millions of people like Shahida Raza, Azan and Asad Naeem who are disillusioned with their country and want to settle outside 'at any cost', few are lucky enough to reach Europe safely but the question is Is it worth taking this risk? To answer this question, you must watch the movie called The Swimmers. This movie is based on the real life of two sisters, these two girls were residents of Syria, they were excellent swimmers, their father wanted them to participate in the Olympics on behalf of their country, unfortunately, the civil war started in Syria and the two girls decided to go from Syria to Germany, first by ship to Istanbul, where they were. There were also people from different countries who wanted to go to Europe.

This is where the painful and heartbreaking journey of all of them begins. An agent forces thirty-five of them into a dilapidated boat. The phone works and they request help from the coast police of Greece, but they get a 'blank' answer from the front saying that this is not the policy of the government. They reach an island.

From there, an agent takes money to take them across the Hungarian border and thus they enter the German border from Hungary. I have written this story in three lines, but the reality is much more terrible than this. Those who want to enter Europe illegally by sea should watch this movie once so that they can know how difficult and dangerous this journey actually is.

Human smugglers are very clever in tricking innocent people by telling them that everything will be legal and that they will be transported safely to Europe by the best boat, but when they reach the shores of Turkey, they find that they have been *Writer is Multan based analyst and researcher*

German Minister calls on Syed Naveed Qamar

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: German Minister of State at Federal Foreign Office Dr. Tobias Linder called on Federal Minister for Commerce and Investments Syed Naveed Qamar to discuss matter of mutual interests.

German Ambassador to Pakistan Alfred Grannas, and Federal Secretary Muhammad Sualeh Ahmed Faruqi were also present in the meeting held here in the Minister Office on Monday.

During the meeting, Commerce Minister acknowledged and thanked for Germany's support for better market access for Pakistan in EU in awarding the status of GSP Plus.

The minister said that government of Pakistan acknowledges trade benefits being accrued as a result of GSP+



as Pakistan's exports to Germany had been increased by 34% since awarding of the status. Syed Naveed reminding to the

German Minister about his visit to Berlin in May 2022, regarding strengthening trade and investment ties, asked for German support with regard to Pakistan's successful completion of fourth biennial review and upcoming GSP Scheme for 2024-34.

He said in 2021-22, total bilateral trade with EU-27 was US\$ 13.5 billion with Pakistan exports to the tune of US\$ 9.2 billion which need to be increased.

The minister said economic stabilization and growth are the key priorities of the government and the EU remained a key partner in helping Pakistan realize these objectives.

Dr. Tobias Linder also condoled a terrorist attack in Sibi, a central district in the province of Balochistan where reportedly nine killed and wounded thirteen others.

Hong Kong's Silicon Valley delegation calls on President Barrister Sultan

Abdul Majeed Tahir

MUZZAFFARABAD: A high-level delegation from Hong Kong's Silicon Valley headed by the Chairman Silicon Valley Pakistan, Lal Dino Mari Baloch, called on AJK President Barrister Sultan Mehmood Chaudhry at Kashmir Islamabad. On this occasion, the delegation gave a detailed briefing to the President regarding the objectives of its visit and investment in Azad Kashmir. The members of the delegation expressed their keen interest in investing the capital in IT, hydro-power generation, tourism, banking and other sectors in Azad Kashmir. Speaking on the occasion, the President welcomed the delegation and



said that there were plenty of investment opportunities in Azad Kashmir, especially in hydropower generation and other sectors. He said that the government of Azad Kashmir was ready to provide all possible support, security

and other facilities to foreign investors. Minister for Information Technology Muhammad Iqbal, who was present at the meeting, told the delegation that there were massive investment opportunities available for investors in Azad Jammu and Kashmir. Besides Lal Dino Mari Baloch, Chief Executive Soo Bee Geok, Vice President Wong Siu Ling, Muhammad Yaqub Sisoli, Salman Latif Mari Baloch and others were part of the delegation.

Blanket ban on critical speeches 'disturbing demonstration' of threat to freedom of expression

Asim Tanveer

MULTAN: Responding to the ban on broadcasting speeches of ex-Prime Minister Imran Khan and suspension of transmission of private news network ARY TV in Pakistan by the Pakistan Electronic Media Regulatory Authority (PEMRA) on Sunday, Rehab Mahamoor, research assistant for South Asia at Amnesty International, said:

"The blanket ban on an opposition leader's speeches and suspension of ARY News is a disturbing demonstration of how successive Pakistani authorities target critical voices and use the country's media regulatory authority to threaten press freedom.

"Overbroad use of bans on news and media publications constitutes a violation of the right to freedom of expression. Criticism of state institutions cannot be considered hate speech as has been suggested by PEMRA. Any limitations on the right to freedom of expression must be on a case-to-case basis and deemed to be necessary and proportionate conforming to international human rights laws and standards.

"The right to freedom of expression is enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and protected in the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) to which Pakistan is a signatory. The Pakistani authorities must withdraw any blanket bans and stop cracking down on journalists and media houses that publish content critical of the government."

Background: On the evening of 5 March 2023, Pakistan's media regulator banned television channels from broadcasting speeches and news conferences by Imran Khan, accusing the former prime minister of attacking the state's institutions and promoting hatred. It also suspended the licence of ARY News, a private news channel.

This is the third ban on broadcasting and rebroadcasting of the ex-Prime Minister's speeches and press talks on all satellite TV channels since he was ousted from power.

Amnesty International has previously documented how successive governments use PEMRA to issue "politically motivated bans" against media houses whose political leanings do not align with that of the government.

NETSOL Cloud Services hosts the first ever AWS DeepRacer League

News Desk

LAHORE: "March 6, 2023"- NETSOL Cloud Services, a leading cloud services provider in Pakistan, is proud to announce that it has successfully hosted the AWS DeepRacer League in Pakistan for the first time.

Over 600 engineers of all skill levels participated in the league, creating over 1,600 models on the console and training for 5,831 hours. The physical race, which was held on February 25, 2023, saw the top 10 teams compete for the winning spots in a 5-hour race. The individual or team with the fastest lap time won the race. The winner of the league in Pakistan will win the coveted trip to "AWS re:Invent" held in Las Vegas for a chance to compete for the AWS Deep Racer League Championship Cup, and a shot at the \$20,000 championship prize purse.

The AWS Deep Racer League provides engineers with hands-on experience in machine learning, artificial intelligence, and reinforcement learning, allowing them to put their skills to the test in an autonomous car racing environment. By hosting the event, NETSOL Cloud Services has established itself as the leading AWS provider in Pakistan and invested in the future of the country's engineers' skill sets.

"We had recently announced our Tier Partnership with Amazon Web Services (AWS), the leading cloud platform globally which provides the broadest set of cloud services available across the world," said Salim Ghauri, CEO of NETSOL Technologies Pakistan. "We are extremely pleased that NETSOL was the pioneer company to sponsor and bring the AWS DeepRacer event to Pakistan. The AWS DeepRacer event allowed teams to swiftly initiate machine learning and artificial intelligence "models", and expand their skillsets on cutting-edge technologies under AWS experts."

The success of the AWS DeepRacer League in Pakistan marks another milestone for NETSOL Cloud Services, a company dedicated to providing innovative solutions and investing in the growth of the technology industry in the country. The company offers a highly scalable AWS infrastructure that allows businesses to quickly and easily scale up or down as needed, based on changes in demand or traffic. NETSOL Cloud Services is committed to providing businesses in Pakistan and the APAC region with innovative cloud solutions that drive growth and success. By hosting the AWS DeepRacer League, the company has demonstrated its dedication to investing in the future of the local technology ecosystem and helping engineers develop new skills that are essential in today's rapidly changing business landscape.

"NETSOL is excited to host the AWS DeepRacer League in Pakistan and invest in the future of our engineers' skillsets and provide them an avenue to experience the Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning," said Furrugh Sohail, Head of Cloud Services at NETSOL. "We are deeply grateful to our AWS experts Danny Ong, Marcella Tang, Talha Ghauri, and Phone Myint Kyaw, who were the lead trainers on this project and made it all possible."

Events such as the AWS DeepRacer League has significant implications for the technology industry in the region. Pakistan, with its rapidly growing technology sector, is poised to become a significant hub for technology growth globally.

Xi calls for fostering children's confidence in socialism with Chinese characteristics

Xinhua

BEIJING: Chinese President Xi Jinping on Sunday called for more efforts to cultivate children's confidence in the path, theory, system and culture of socialism with Chinese characteristics.

Xi, also general secretary of the Communist Party of China Central Committee and chairman of the Central Military Commission, made the remarks while attending a deliberation with his fellow deputies from the delegation of Jiangsu Province at the first session of the 14th National People's Congress, China's national legislature.

Educators of the new era should strive to nurture a new generation of capable young people to develop socialism with Chinese characteristics and carry forward the socialist cause, Xi said.

He noted that China's education ought to draw fine contents from the 5,000-year Chinese culture and be inclusive to the achievements of Western civilizations.



Maj. Gen. (Retd) Nadir Khan, Amb-designate to Ukraine called on Minister of State Hina Rabbani Khar today.

Dolli lift

MUZZAFFRABAD: A woman is crossing Jhelum river on a Dolli lift which may cause any incident any time and needs the attention of concerned authorities.



Photo: Online

Zonergy Corporation displayed its Smart Energy Solution

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan:- Zonergy Corporation showcases its smart Energy Solutions in Indonesia's most renowned International Solar Energy Exhibition (Solartech Indonesia 2023) held at Jakarta Convention and Exhibition Center, Indonesia. Zonergy Corporation made its debut at the exhibition, and Jun Guo, executive director and president of the company, led the delegation as the team leader. A wide range of PV storage products with core competitiveness was showcased, attracting the attention of many exhibitors.

At the exhibition, Zonergy exhibited Panda single-phase series, Apollo G-330 three-phase grid-connected inverter, Mercury series single-phase grid-connected inverter, portable power supply and other products launched for the Indonesian market. In particular, Panda series products can satisfy the needs of local families. With a designed modular capacity of 5kWh, it can be flexibly expanded from 5 to 30kWh; with stronger stability, the faulty

battery module can be automatically isolated to ensure the stable operation of the system; and powered by a built-in smart grid management system, it can serve the function of power grid dispatching. With a capacity ratio as high as 1.5 times, Apollo series DC can be well-matched with large current and double-sided components; empowered by a self-adaptive control algorithm, it can work well in a harsh environment; it offers various monitoring modes, supporting RS485 and WiFi/GPRS. Mercury series can intelligently adapt to weak power grid and avoid frequent Internet disconnection; with independent two-way MPPT tracking, it can adapt to different installation environments. The portable power bank products offered by Zonergy come in with a wide array of models, including large, medium and small specifications, multiple functions, complete certification, and standard lithium iron phosphate battery, ensuring safety and reliability; with the addition of a fashionable exterior, it is tailor-made for Indonesia and

other island countries.

With the in-depth development of a market-based economy, accelerated urbanization, continuous population growth and the frequent occurrences of power outages in Indonesia, this country has an increasingly urgent demand for a stable power supply. Against such a backdrop, the Indonesian authorities have picked up the pace to implement renewable energy power generation projects and upgrade power grid infrastructure, propelling the development process of the country's energy storage industry.

On the first day of the exhibition, Zonergy Booth was frequented by local customers and exhibitors, and an endless stream of visitors. Potential clients from different industries, EPC companies and distributors expressed interest in the company's products, and Panda single-phase series energy products attracted much attention. As a country with many islands, Indonesia boasts a large market for household and outdoor energy storage products. The company will continue to focus on custom-



ers and provide high-quality products and solutions. Meanwhile, it will further deepen innovation and research and development, and bolster the green devel-

opment of Southeast Asia with technological innovation. Solartech Indonesia is one of the largest annual solar energy exhibitions in the country.

The exhibition covers an area of about 15,000 square meters and attracts about 20,000 visitors. A total of 300 solar industry exhibitors from 20 countries attend-

ed, and a series of business meetings, forum meetings and other activities were held concurrently to facilitate exhibitors to find target buyers.

Bull & Bears
PSX 100-Share
Index Fluctuation

Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index	
Current	Prev. Close
41,434.33	41,337.00
Day's High	Day's Low:
41,797.71	41,337.00
Index Value	Change
6,156,413,499	+97.33
Percentage	Time
+0.24%	6 Mar, 2023 5:00 pm

Europe: FTSE 100 Index	
Index Value	Change
7,929.79	-17.32
Percentage	Time
-0.22%	6 Mar, 4:35 pm GMT

USA: Dow Jones Industrial Average	
Index Value	Change
33,546.13	+155.16
Percentage	Time
+0.46%	6 Mar, 12:16 pm GMT-5

Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average	
Index Value	Change
28,237.78	+310.31
Percentage	Time
+1.11%	6 Mar, 3:15 pm GMT+9

Open Market Forex Rates

Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	186.4	189
Bahrain Dinar	733.92	741.92
Canadian Dollar	203.5	206
China Yuan	39.95	40.35
Danish Krone	39.44	39.84
Euro	294.6	297.5
Hong Kong Dollar	35.16	35.51
Indian Rupee	3.17	3.28
Japanese Yen	2.06	2.11
Kuwaiti Dinar	852.25	861.25
Malaysian Ringgit	58.47	59.07
New Zealand \$	170.75	172.75
Norwegians Krone	25.19	25.49
Omani Riyal	716.76	724.76
Qatari Riyal	71.84	72.54
Saudi Riyal	74.2	74.9
Singapore Dollar	191.5	193.5
Swedish Korona	25.09	25.39
Swiss Franc	294.78	281.08
Thai Bhat	7.54	7.69
U.A.E Dirham	76.2	76.95
UK Pound Sterling	332.4	335.7
US Dollar	278.8	281

Ethiopian Prime Minister, Abiy Ahmed's to visit to Pakistan

By Naveed Ahmad Khan

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Affairs Minister, Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia Demeke Mekonnen Hassen on Monday said that there is a possibility of Ethiopian Prime Minister, Abiy Ahmed's visit to Pakistan in coming months.

He said that in the next few months, there will be meetings between the top leadership of both sides at different levels, which will give the two countries an opportunity to come closer.

Deputy Prime Minister, Republic of Ethiopia Demeke Mekonnen Hassen said this while addressing the delegation of Pakistan's businessmen and investors from the different sectors.

The Ethiopian Deputy PM welcomes the business delegation from Pakistan and said that it is hoped that after the arrival of this delegation, there will be positive progress on the economic and commercial sides.

He said that Ethiopia is an open country for foreign investment and Pakistani investors can benefit from all kinds of business and investment opportunities here.

He said that Ethiopia is an emerging economy that is working on economic and investment reforms.

He said that agriculture, manufacturing, mining and tourism are important for economic and trade cooperation in both countries, which can increase bilateral economic relations.

He said that under the leadership of Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed, Ethiopia is on the path of economic development and work is also being done on economic and investment reforms.

On the occasion President Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Ahsan Zafar



Bakhtawri said that I feel honoured to address this important forum and I want to thank you for extending very warm welcome and great hospitality to Pakistani business delegation to Ethiopia.

President ICCI said that Africa is a huge market of around 1.5 billion population, which is very attractive for foreign investors.

Ahsan said "I would like to highly appreciate Mr. Jemal Beker, Ambassador of Ethiopia to Pakistan who took keen interest and made great efforts for formation of a Pakistani business delegation for Ethiopia.

He personally visited many Chambers of Commerce and Industry in Pakistan to mobilize the business community to become part of this delegation for which he deserves great appreciation.

He said that Pakistan exports many high-quality products at competitive prices around the world including textiles products, surgical instruments, pharmaceuticals, cutlery

items, leather products, sports goods, chemicals, marble and granite, carpets, and rugs, rice, sugar, cotton and many other items.

Ethiopia can also help them to set up their manufacturing units here and export their products to many African countries.

Speaking on this occasion, Ibrahim Khalid Tawab said that in order to increase the economic cooperation between the two countries, work should be done on a single currency so that the trade imbalances on both sides end.

Apart from this, he said that Ethiopia and Pakistan can work on Tariff rationalization which will increase mutual trade.

Ibrahim Tawab said that cammication and direct trade should be made effective in order to further advance the dialogue and trade on both sides.

He suggested that a delegation of Ethiopian businesses and Chamber of Commerce should also visit Pakistan soon.

Addressing the ceremony on this occasion,

Illise Neme Suri, Commissioner of Ethiopian Investment Commission, said that Ethiopia is open for all kinds of investment and there are many opportunities for Pakistani business here.

He said that the Ethiopian government is working on business and investment reforms that will increase investment opportunities.

He said that a lot of work has been done on Ease of Doing Business.

On this occasion, Ambassador of Ethiopia to Pakistan Jemal Abdullah Baker said that the arrival of a delegation of businessmen and Investors from Pakistan will increase mutual trade between the two countries.

He said that more work is needed to promote economic and trade relations between the two countries.

On this occasion, Secretary General of United Business Group Zafar Bakhtawari and Vice President of Islamabad Chamber of Commerce also addressed the ceremony.

MMBL and CASH1 join hands to boost Financial Inclusion in remote areas

By Commerce Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Mobilink Microfinance Bank Ltd. (MMBL) has taken another step towards expanding its reach across Pakistan by partnering with CASH1-owned by Webdnaworks Private Limited. Webdnaworks is the pioneer of Independent ATM deployment and operations in Pakistan and is the first non-banking entity to get the State Bank of Pakistan's license of Payment Service Operator (PSO) and Payment Service Provider (PSP) for the deployment of Off-Site ATMs under the brand CASH1.

As part of this joint initiative, CASH1 will be providing Off-site ATM deployment services to MMBL, enabling the Bank to broaden its outreach and enhance its service in far-flung areas where customers lack adequate access to basic facilities and infrastructure, thereby increasing access to financial services for those who have been traditionally unserved and underserved.

The deployment of Off-Site ATMs will provide greater convenience and accessibil-



ity to customers, allowing them to access their accounts and conduct transactions at any time. This is an important step towards increasing financial inclusion. Sharing his thoughts at the signing ceremony, Ghaz-anfar Azzam, President, and CEO MMBL said, "We are excited about this partnership with CASH1, as it will enable us to extend our reach even further and provide greater convenience and accessibility to our customers. Deploying CASH1's ATM

services is critical to MMBL's mission to improve financial inclusion in Pakistan.

On the occasion of the signing ceremony, Qamar Abbas, Executive Director of Webdnaworks Private Ltd. said, "We are delighted to roll out our 'bank in the box' business model that will go some way to digitize cash-out payment to the general public, not only in the major cities but also in the rural areas of Pakistan through this partnership with MMBL."

Business community has given one-month ultimatum to the govt

By News Desk

KARACHI: Mr. Irfan Iqbal Sheikh, President FPCCI, has expressed his profound, long-standing concerns over the vicious, unending and resource-depleting menace of land grabbing of the industrial, commercial, agricultural and residential lands in Pakistan in general and, in Sindh province, in particular. He was addressing a live-telecasted, well-attended and high-profile press conference at the FPCCI Head Office in Karachi on the issue.

Mr. Irfan Iqbal Sheikh apprised that hundreds of industrial plots in Pakistan have been illegally-occupied through forged documents; out-rightly grabbed or encroached upon; and, as

President of the apex body, he is under tremendous pressure from the business, industry and trade community from across Pakistan to raise the issue with the federal & Sindh governments for its decisive resolution in a fair mechanism.

Mr. Suleman Chawla, SVP FPCCI, Mian Nasser Hyatt



Maggo and Mr. Khurram Tariq Sayeed, VP CACCI, said that Sindh Government claims that some portion of Sindh land records have been digitalized; whereas, the claim is still debatable as far as the business community is concerned.

DeafTawk and Kingfisher partner to promote Digital Inclusion

By News Desk

ISLAMABAD: DeafTawk, a startup scaled under Pakistan's premier accelerator program Jazz xIrs, dedicated to improving the lives of deaf individuals, has partnered with Kingfisher, a next-gen mobile experience (MX) company, to promote digital inclusion and create a positive socio-economic impact for the deaf community in Pakistan. GSMA, an organization that represents the interests of mobile network operators worldwide was instrumental in bringing both organizations together.

Under this partnership, Kingfisher will provide smartphones to be distributed among the marginalized deaf community in Pakistan every year, enabling them to connect with the outside world and access employment opportunities. This initiative will help millions of deaf persons to overcome the barriers to communication, achieve their full potential and become contributing members of society.

Commenting on the partnership, DeafTawk's CEO Ali Shabbar said, "We are delighted to partner with Kingfisher to improve the lives of deaf individuals in Pakistan. With the support



of the GSMA, Jazz and the Ministry of IT & Telecom, we will work towards the socio-economic development of the 9 million deaf persons in Pakistan."

The partnership between DeafTawk and Kingfisher marks an important step in promoting digital inclusion and creating a more inclusive society in Pakistan.

Poor unable to play role in country's uplift: Mian Zahid Hussain

By Tariq Khattak

ISLAMABAD: Chairman of National Business Group Pakistan, President Pakistan Businessmen and Intellectuals Forum, and All Karachi Industrial Alliance, and former provincial minister Mian Zahid Hussain on Monday said the economic policies made for the benefit of a few influential have bankrupted the country.

The country will have no future until the policies are centered on the welfare of the people and equitable distribution of wealth is not ensured, he said.

Mian Zahid Hussain said that policies that push resources from

the bottom up make the poor poorer and leave them unable to play any role in the country's development.

Talking to the business community, the veteran business leader said that the majority of the capital is flowing toward non-productive sectors instead of industry and agriculture which will never allow national development.

He lauded the policy of improving relations with the United States terming it in the national interest because it is the major export market of Pakistan, seventeen percent of exports are consumed in this market and the overall trade balance has been in favor of Pakistan since the mid-1990s.

However, he said, the balance of trade in agricultural products is in favor of the United States.

For many decades, the policymakers in Pakistan have been focusing on expanding the tax net, but it has not been able to increase it and Pakistan collects 4000 billion rupees less in taxes than the world standard.

If the POS i.e. Point of Sales system is effectively implemented, the tax net will automatically increase and poverty will also decrease, he observed.

Mian Zahid Hussain said that at present all policymaking is limited to accounting and revolves around the twin deficits. In the electricity and gas sectors, there is a deficit



of 800 billion rupees per year and 600 megawatts of electricity is lost

or stolen every day.

Government institutions lose 600 billion rupees annually, until the big holes are closed, the problems will not be solved but will increase because our economy will not continue without major changes.

For change, energy and agricultural import substitution is necessary so that resources could be spent on health, education, clean drinking water, transport, and other sectors.

The quality of life of the people can be improved, their condition can be changed and they can play a role in the development of the country. Without radical changes in the policies, the country will never be able to develop, he said.

SECP facilitates an inclusive economic and work environment: Chairman



By Spokesman Report

KARACHI: "As the apex regulator of the corporate sector and capital markets in Pakistan, SECP facilitates an inclusive economic and work environment", said SECP Chairman Akif Saeed. He informed that females in senior management positions at SECP now account for 38% while 51% of all new recruitments in the last year have been females. Likewise, maternity leave has been extended from 90 days to 180 days.

SECP chairman made these remarks while addressing the gathering at Annual Global Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Benchmarks Awards 2023. He said that Companies Act, 2017 formally addressed the topic of diversity and inclusivity for the first time followed by subsequent Listed Companies (Code of Corporate Governance) Regulations, 2019.

SECP has formulated a comprehensive action plan to ensure Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, including but not limited to ensuring female representation in all management/executive committees as well as new recruitments. Likewise, in terms of policy reforms, SECP has introduced reforms in code of corporate governance, mandating listed companies to have at least one female director on board, said Akif Saeed in his speech.

The requirement to mention husband's name by a married woman or widow for registration of a company has also been abolished, while an enabling framework has also been put in place for issuance of gender bonds, and encouraging boards of listed companies, NBFs and Insurance companies to implement Gender Diversity Policies and keep track of gender disaggregated data.

PCB confirms broadcast details for Women's League exhibition matches

Sports Desk

LAHORE: The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) on Monday confirmed a panel of 11 commentators and two presenters for the three-match Women's League exhibition matches taking place at the Pindi Cricket Stadium in Rawalpindi on 8th, 10th and 11th of March. The matches will start at 2pm and will be followed by the men's matches at 7pm.

Sana Mir, Urooj Mumtaz, Marina Iqbal, Waqar Younis, Alan Wilkins, Bazid Khan, Danny Morrison, Daren Ganga, Mark Butcher, Sikandar Bakht and Simon Doull will be on commentary panel through the course of the exhibition games; while Zainab Abbas and Erin Holland will be the presenters.

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



Tahuu of New Zealand.

Meanwhile, the High-Definition broadcast coverage will include 30 cameras, which along with buggy cam, will embellish the viewing experience of the fans within and outside Pakistan. HawkEye and UltraEdge will be part of the Decision Review System (DRS) Technology.

Cricket fans in Pakistan will be able to watch the Women's League exhibition matches in high-definition on A Sports and PTV Sports on linear TV; while livestreaming for viewers across the world will be available on PCB and PSL YouTube channels.

Viewers around the world can watch

the action live on Fox Sports (Australia), Willow TV (North America), Flow Sports (Caribbean), Sky Sports (United Kingdom), Sky Sport NZ (New Zealand), Super Sport (sub-Saharan Africa) and, CricLife Etisalat and STARZPLAY (Mena).

In non-broadcast territories, the exhibition matches will be available at the HBL PSL's official YouTube and Facebook channels.

Squads:

Amazons - Bismah Maroof (captain), Aliya Riaz, Anam Amin, Areesha Noor, Danni Wyatt (England), Eyman Fatima, Fatima Khan, Fatima Sana, Ghulam Fatima, Gull Feroza,

Kainat Imtiaz, Laura Delany (Ireland), Maia Bouchier (England), Nashra Sundhu, Sadaf Shamas, Sidra Nawaz, Tammy Beaumont (England) and Tess Flintoff (Australia)

Super Women - Nida Dar (captain), Aimen Anwar, Chamari Athapaththu (Sri Lanka), Iram Javed, Jahanara Alam (Bangladesh), Lauren Winfield-Hill (England), Laura Wolvaardt (South Africa), Lea Tahuu (New Zealand), Muneeba Ali, Natalia Parvaiz, Omaira Sohail, Sadia Iqbal, Shawaal Zulfiqar, Sidra Amin, Syeda Aroob Shah, Syeda Masooma Zahra, Tubha Hassan and Umm-e-Hani

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).

Inter-Faculty Cricket Tournament 2023 Kickoff in Gomal University

Adam Khan Wazir

DERA ISMAIL KHAN: Along with academic activities, healthy physical activities are very important for students these views were expressed by Gomal University Vice Chancellor Professor Dr. Shakibullah on the occasion of the opening ceremony of Interfaculty Cricket Tournament 2023 under the leadership of Directorate of Sports.

On this occasion, Registrar Gomal University Dr. Jabbar Khan, Director of Sports and Chairman of the Department of Sports Sciences Dr. Wasim Khan, Provost Dr. Sami Ullah, Chairman of the Department of English Dr. Ahmed Naem, Transport Officer Hafeez Khan Mehsud and a large number of teachers and students of the Department of Sports Sciences was present.

Speaking at the ceremony, Vice Chancellor Professor Dr. Shakibullah said that I am very happy, when I see students participating in such positive and healthy physical and co-curricular activities alongside education.

Because such positive activities along with academics increase the spirit of positive leadership in students He further said that the students of Gomal University have always made a name not only for themselves and their parents but also for Gomal University by always seeing the essence of their abilities in academic fields, co-curricular and positive health activities.

Director of Sports and Chairman of the Department of Sports Sciences, Dr. Sam Khan, also addressed while Nazakat Ali performed the duties of the stage secretary.

Central Park Spring Festival Cricket Event Final won by Central Park



News Desk

LAHORE : Usman Anwar MD Urban Developers, Malik Zahid, Nasir Majeed, Ch. Sarwar, Akhter Ali and Muhammad Kaleem gave away the prizes amongst the players

Before the Start of big final both the teams players introduced with Mian Tahir Javed Chairman urban Developers Mr. Inam Akbar, Mian Muhammad Haris, and Mian Ibrahim. Central Park won the toss and elected to bat first Central Park Scored: 60/7 in 6-overs M. Shabaz 25, Abdul Ghaffar 20 and Mubashir Habib 15 were their man scorers. In reply Vital Developers scored: 52/9 in 6-overs

Fahim 30 runs were their man runs getters. Central Park Bowler Basharat Ali make the hat trick in final 3 for 3, Hussain Shah, Abdul Ghaffar and Nisar took two wickets each. know Central Park win the final by 8 runs. Ahmed Shahab, Qaiser Khan umpires, M. Kazam and Salman Zulfiqar Ali Scorers of the final. Mian Tahir Javed Mian. Haris and Mian Ibrahim Congratulations to Mr. Usman Anwar sb and Manager Sports Muhammad Kaleem & cash prize 50000 for Central Park Sports Department

Mr. Usman Anwar gave away the winner Trophy + Cash prize 100000 for Central Park, Malik Zahid gave away the Runner up Trophy + Cash 15000

Golf Tournament

H.E. Hamad Obaid Ibrahim Salem Al-Zaabi, Ambassador of the UAE to Pakistan, and Zarrar Hasham Khan, Group Chief Business Solutions Officer, PTCL & Ufone 4G, pose with winners at the end of the PTCL & Ufone 4G Business Solutions Corporate Golf Tournament held recently at Islamabad Club.



Islamabad United seal playoffs spot with two-wicket win over Quetta Gladiators

Sports Desk

RAWALPINDI : Faheem Ashraf smashed three consecutive boundaries in the final over of the match to help Islamabad United complete a nervy chase of the 180-run target against Quetta Gladiators at Pindi Cricket Stadium Rawalpindi on late Sunday.

Colin Munro's blazing half-century had put Islamabad United into a commanding position by the end of the Powerplay before a spectacular middle-order collapse threatened to derail the home side's chase but Azam Khan and Faheem's calm contributions ensured they achieved their fifth win of the season.

Quetta Gladiators were condemned to a horrible start to their innings after being put

into bat first by Shadab Khan. The wickets kept tumbling for the visitors as they were reduced to 17-4 in the sixth over with Fazal-haq Farooqi's nippy swing and accurate lines accounting for two scalps in the initial burst.

The pair of Najibullah Zadran (59 off 34) and Mohammad Nawaz (52 off 44) added 104 runs off 64 deliveries for the fifth wicket, reviving Quetta Gladiators' innings. Najibullah was the aggressor of the two as he reached his fifty off 28 balls and smoked a total of five boundaries and three sixes in his brilliant knock.

Nawaz's dismissal in the 17th over off Fazal-haq brought Umar Akmal to the crease, who slammed a quick-fire 43 not out off just 14 balls to propel Quetta Gladiators' score to 179-6. Umar

batted with an explosive strike rate of 307.14 and walloped five maximums and two fours in his breezy knock.

In reply, Naseem Shah struck early to remove Rahmanullah Gurbaz for a duck but Alex Hales and Munro launched a breathtaking counterattack to rack up 51 runs in the first four overs. Hales was soon dismissed for 12 off 9 by Naveen-ul-Haq when he tried to force a slower delivery through cover but directed it straight to Najibullah.

Munro continued his charge on the other end, smacking four sixes and five fours in his 29-ball 63 and was removed by Iftikhar Ahmed in the eighth over as he searched for another maximum. From 96-2, Islamabad United crashed to 111-6 in the 12th over

but the top-order blitz meant Azam and Faheem could afford to be circumspect in their approach and take the game deep.

The seventh-wicket partnership between the two yielded 58 runs in 44 balls before Azam (35 off 25) and Hasan Ali's wickets in the penultimate over of the chase bowled by Umaid Asif added some late drama. Faheem (39 not out off 31) then drilled three fours in succession off Odean Smith to pull off a two-wicket triumph for his side.

Umaid registered 3-37 while Nawaz finished with figures of 2-17 in his four overs following his impressive outing with the bat.

Scores in brief: Quetta Gladiators 179-6, 20 overs (Najibullah Zadran 59,



Mohammad Nawaz 52, Umar Akmal 43 not out; Fazal-haq Farooqi 3-25, Faheem Ashraf 2-29). Multan Sultans 183-8, 19.3 overs (Colin Munro 63, Faheem Ashraf 39 not out, Azam Khan 35; Umaid Asif 3-37, Mohammad Nawaz 2-17). Player of the match - Fazal-haq Farooqi (Islamabad United). Monday's fixture: 1900 - Quetta Gladiators v Karachi Kings at Pindi Cricket Stadium, Rawalpindi.

Capital Premier League to roll into action from March 14

Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: The inaugural edition of Capital Premier League (CPL) will get underway from March 14 at Rawal Cricket Ground Rawalpindi wherein country's top-notch wheelchair players will showcase their skills, Pakistan Wheelchair Cricket Council (PWCC) said on Monday.

According to Rookhsana, people who have some limitations by their body parts are blessed with strong resilience and determination and the league will be a manifestation of that.

"In the CPL you will see them telling the world that they are not bound by their disabilities rather they are blessed with special abilities."

"It will not be merely a league where contests will take place between different teams but the event will provide



a chance to the wheelchair cricketers to prove their talent to the world," she added. She said the first edition of the event would see four teams vying for the top honours. The teams include Islamabad Kings, Pindi Warlords, Murree Hawks and Margala Tigers.

"However, the number of teams will be increased in the second and third editions. It will be an annual event. We have planned to hold it on regular basis."

"I hope people will come to watch these matches in large numbers. I assure the event will offer a lot of fun and excitement as the wheelchair players compete with the same passion and dedication as regular players," she added. The opening match will be played between Islamabad Kings and Pindi War Lords. The final will take place on March 16.

Public Notice

PHATA

"Rudan Enclave 2" Mouza Chahan Chakri Road Tehsil & District Rawalpindi comprising an area of 211.43-Kanal. Public is hereby informed that Mr. Rahim-ud-Din Naem S/o Muhammad Razaque, Chief Executive Officer CNIC#42401-5910908-3, Resident of Ibrahim Villas Morgah House No.74, Street No.3 Rawalpindi, Office Address #RmrscHouse, Plaza No.71, 72 & 73, Walayat Complex Bahara Town Phase & Islamabad has applied to Punjab Housing & Town Planning Agency for the sanctioning of a Private Hosing Scheme located at Mouza Chahan Chakri Road Tehsil & District Rawalpindi under Punjab Housing & Town Planning Agency (PHATA) Affordable Private Housing Scheme Rules 2020. The detail of area is as under:-

Khasra No.	Area		
	Kanal	Marla	Sft
3414, 3400, 3417, 3718, 3391, 3389, 3396, 3720, 3402, 3403, 3404, 3405, 3406, 3408, 3409, 3719, 3741, 3691, 3742, 3392, 3413, 3684, 3390, 3393, 3394, 3395, 3396, 3742/1, 3721/1, 3725, 3726, 3727, 3716, 3717, 3721, 3722, 3724, 3715, 3723, 3728	238	02	-
Total	238	02	-

"Rudan Enclave 2" Mouza Chahan Chakri Road Tehsil & District Rawalpindi comprising an area of 211.43-Kanal ownership/title documents of land mentioned above may, within **FIFTEEN DAYS** of publication of this notice, submit the same in writing to undersigned. Any objection filed after due date shall not be entertained.

DEPUTY DIRECTOR
PUNJAB HOUSING & TOWN PLANNING AGENCY
AIRPORT LINE ROAD NEAR WATER TANK
GULZAR-E-QUAID RAWALPINDI. PHONE NO.051-5191753